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Accord Reached on International Aid to Palestinians

TA0611060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Agreement has been reached on the mechanism which will regulate $2.4 billion of international aid to the Palestinians. The agreement was achieved last night in Paris, where the steering committee on economic aid to the territories has been meeting. According to the agreement, the World Bank will serve as the functioning secretariat of the funding mechanism and will be supervised by a committee composed of the U.S., Japan, the EC, Canada, Norway, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. Israel, the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and the UN will be associate members of the committee.

Qol Yisra'el's reporter covering the talks says the solution is the result of a compromise between the U.S., which wanted the World Bank to have exclusive control over the aid plan, and the Europeans, who wanted direct involvement on planning where the money will go. The Palestinian delegates to the committee expressed the hope that the arrangements would generate the flow of money into the territories as soon as January.

The talks in Paris marked another milestone. It was the first time Israel and Jordan held official direct economic negotiations. According to Qol Yisra'el, agreement was reached on several bilateral issues involving banking and commerce. The Israeli delegation was led by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and Finance Ministry Director General Aharon Fogel. Our reporter says the two sides were under pressure to reach an agreement, because in the next few days the joint Israeli-Jordanian economic committee is due to hold its first meeting in Washington. The committee was formed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan during their meeting last month with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House.

Uri Savir also announced that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat will meet in 10 days time with Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the PLO's top economic official. The meeting will also take place in Paris.

Next week in Copenhagen, regional economic cooperation talks will open, with 12 Arab states, the U.S., Russia, and the EC taking part. Israel will be represented by the Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel.

Israel Pledges To Restore Electricity to Gazans

NC0511210293 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Athens, Nov 5 (AFP)—Israel has promised to restore electricity to all Gaza Strip Palestinians, following a series of brief contacts held on the sidelines of an E.C. energy conference here, officials from both delegations told AFP on Friday [5 November].

Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told Gaza mayor Zakariya Makki that electricity would be restored to the 40 percent of Palestinians whose supplies had been cut off three weeks previously for non-payment of debts, the officials said.

A high-ranking Israeli diplomat said that this was a technical, not a political, issue.

Shahal was the only party to attend an E.C.-arranged meeting here on Thursday between Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians to discuss energy, water and transport issues, an E.C. official told AFP.

During that meeting, he met with the E.C. commissioner in charge of energy, Abel Matutes, and his deputy, Panayiotis Karvounis, to discuss possible E.C. funding for joint water and energy projects.

The Jordanian delegation excused itself from the meeting, citing the closeness of elections, and the Palestinian delegation, led by PLO scientific committee chairman 'Adnan Samarah, showed up without a mandate to negotiate or a concrete project.

The meeting had been prepared following last month's E.C. decision to allocate 500 million Ecus (565 million dollars) for projects linked to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"Unfortunately, we learned at the last minute that the meeting, which was to have produced a joint document, could not take place," a high-ranking E.C. official told AFP.

"We must have a dialogue about these types of projects," the official said. "This is only a postponement."

Arab-Israeli Talks

Venue of Taba Talks Transferred to Cairo

TA0711193393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement are moving from Taba to Cairo. Tomorrow morning, the delegates will convene in a secluded location in the Egyptian capital without the presence of media. The talks, which will be conducted by five Israeli and five Palestinian delegates, will address the same security problems over which they were suspended. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the pared-down team will stay in Cairo as long as required, and only after a solution is attained will the subcommittees reconvene in Taba. This arrangement was reached by Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin through representatives.

Progress has been achieved in the talks of the civilian subcommittees on the transfer of powers in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Israel has consented to hand over to the Palestinians full Civil Administration departments, including their entire equipment, and including the

Palestinian staffers' pension funds and severance pay. During the week, technical committees will begin compiling data in various areas. The Palestinians have been told that to ensure electricity and water supplies, they will have to sign contracts with Israel Electric Corporation and the Meqorot Water Company. Another issue on the agenda is the access to several Jewish sites, such as the ancient synagogue in Gaza, the Dayr al-Balah mosaic site, and the synagogue ruins in Jericho.

Palestinian, Israeli Unions Exchange Recognition

JN0711124193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] The Palestinian Workers Union in the occupied territories and the Israeli Labor Federation, the Histadrut, have exchanged mutual recognition.

Israel Radio, which reported this, said that the announcement came at the conclusion of a meeting held by representatives of the Palestinian Workers Union in the occupied territories and representatives of the Israeli Labor Federation, the Histadrut. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi attended the meeting for the Palestinian side, while Hayim Haberfeld, secretary of the Histadrut, attended for the Israeli side.

Haberfeld said that the qualification institutes affiliated with the Histadrut will accommodate leading Palestinian trade union cadres as well as Palestinian workers in its next courses.

Jordanian Minister Reportedly Meets Israeli Official

JN0611143893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] In Amman, a well-informed Jordanian source has said Jawad al-'Anani, [Jordanian] minister of state for cabinet affairs, met with Uri Savri, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, in Paris the day before yesterday in the presence of U.S. officials. Al-'Anani is currently in Paris to participate in a conference on aid for Palestinian self-rule. The source said the meeting between the Jordanian and Israeli officials came within the framework of meeting of the Jordanian-Israeli-American working group established in Washington in October in connection with the meeting between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres.

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiators, 'Sources' on Status of Taba Talks

Ra'fat Demands 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

JN0611103193 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 6 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Salih Ra'fat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations has said the PLO demanded a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, headed by [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, and [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shim'on Peres to discuss resumption of negotiations on a clear basis.

In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, Ra'fat also said that the PLO also called for a new meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to emphasize Israel's commitment to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the dates of the beginning and end of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In his statement to AL-ASWAQ, Ra'fat stressed that Taba negotiations will remain suspended until there is an 'Arafat-Rabin meeting.

He said Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conveyed this proposal to Rabin during his visit to occupied Palestine last Thursday [4 November], adding that contacts are going on between all parties to decide the date of this meeting.

Ra'fat emphasized that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is very clear, but Israel proposed a plan to the Palestinian delegation on redeployment and not withdrawal of forces as the agreement stipulates, therefore, the Palestinian delegation rejected this plan.

Ra'fat also emphasized that all points of the agreement and its annexes are very clear. He added that the Palestinians did not overlook any issues, especially those concerning definitions.

No Decision Until Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

NC0611103993 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, Nov 6 (AFP)—The Palestinians will not decide on whether to renew autonomy talks with Israel before meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the PLO said Saturday [6 November].

Playing down Israeli optimism, the chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said the decision would follow a meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the president on Sunday.

Mubarak would brief 'Arafat on the outcome of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel on Thursday, he told AFP.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, meanwhile, told the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM that the autonomy talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba would resume next week.

Obstacles that arose at the last session of talks "were not as important as some people made them out to be," he said. [passage omitted]

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed that his adviser Jacques Neria had travelled to Cairo earlier in the week but declined to specify his mission.

AL-AHRAM AL-MAS'AI newspaper reported that Neria made contact with Palestinian and Syrian officials, although Damascus has denied any secret meetings with the Israelis.

Kamal on Topics of Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

NC0611145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that setting the date for resuming the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings will be among the topics President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss in Cairo Sunday [7 November]. In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that so far no date has been set for the resumption of the Committee's talks, which were suspended last week in Taba as a result of differences in views over the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out that several issues will affect the possibilities of and the date for the resumption of the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, such as the outcome of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel and his meetings with senior Israeli officials, primarily Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Talks Said To Resume in 'Next 48 Hours'

NC0611105493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 6 Nov (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources report that the Gaza-Jericho Committee which meets in Taba will resume its meetings in the next 48 hours. The sources say the Palestinian delegation members have received instructions from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to be ready to go to Taba at any moment.

These sources note that Egyptian and international efforts seem to have succeeded in resolving the problem concerning the suspension of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The sources say the Israeli offer on the Israeli Army's redeployment is no more than an implementation of an Israeli plan for a unilateral withdrawal that was devised before signing the agreement. The sources add that the only positive point in the latest Israeli offer is the acknowledgement of the Gaza Strip's international borders as recognized before the June 1967 war.

Al-Husayni: 'New Spirit' by Israelis Required

NC0611200293 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Mahir Shalabi report from Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources stress that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the next round of talks in Taba following last week's Egyptian mediation.

[Begin Palestinian Chief Negotiator Faysal al-Husayni recording] I think it is possible for the talks to resume next week, but this really requires a new spirit and method by the Israelis. Israel's position in the past round never indicated that it was serious about its proposals. I believe the Israelis' stance was not convincing, not even to them. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ra'fat Affirms Stance on Talks Resumption

JN0711065293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Salih Ra'fat, senior Palestinian delegate to the Palestinian-Israeli Taba negotiations, has affirmed that the resumption of these negotiations, which were suspended a few days ago, depends on the outcome of direct Palestinian-Israeli contacts, as well as U.S.-Israeli, Norwegian-Israeli, and Egyptian-Israeli consultations on the convocation of a meeting for the Liaison Committee under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to address the impasse in the negotiations.

In a statement in Amman, Ra'fat added that the Israeli redeployment plan is a departure from the provisions contained in the agreed Declaration of Principles, which unequivocally and clearly provides for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He also affirmed the Palestinians' determination to control all land and sea outlets in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, including the bridges between Jordan and the West Bank. However, he noted that the PLO is willing to involve international troops in controlling these outlets and in border security functions.

'Diplomatic Sources': Talks Will Resume

NC0811132093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Diplomatic sources have stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume next week in Taba. The Palestinians suspended the talks last week.

A Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this morning to discuss the reasons of the suspension and try to resolve them. The two sides will resume their meeting tomorrow.

The meeting was attended on the Israeli side by four members—three military men and a personal representative of the Israeli prime minister—and on the Palestinian side by a four-member delegation headed by Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks.

'Arafat Receives Call From Christopher

JN0611190193 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, has said that discussions during the call dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and ways to remove the obstacles facing them.

'Ashrawi on PLO Washington Office, Taba Talks

NC0711085093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba peace talks Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" Program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Tell us about your current visit to Washington, which is due to end today.

['Ashrawi] The visit has several goals. Actually the aim of the visit was to lecture at various universities, including Princeton, Yale, and George Washington University, and to address the U.S.-Arab Society in Washington on behalf of President 'Arafat.

I also had intense meetings with the State Department and the legal adviser there, some of which dealt with the status of Palestinian representation and Palestinian-U.S. relations. Some of the meetings also dealt with the progress of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Taba and the follow-up on issues concerning the economic conference of donor countries.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is clear that the issues you discussed in Washington are important. Let us first talk about the status of Palestinian representation in the United States.

['Ashrawi] Of course, there has been no official PLO or Palestinian representation in Washington. After the closure of the PLO office, it became an information office under the Arab League authority. But there are talks now under way on the status of this office or the Palestinian representation to turn it into a foreign mission not under the authority of the justice Department but the State Department.

This office will conduct several tasks with the [U.S.] Administration at the level of the State Department, the White House, Congress, as well as at the level of news media, U.S. public institutions, and Palestinian and Arab communities.

As for the tasks, there is full agreement on the diversity of these tasks and on taking them seriously. We are still discussing the official relationship between this office and the State Department; and there are questions that will be answered in detail by the legal adviser.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are reports that you will represent the PLO in Washington. Are they true?

['Ashrawi] We are still discussing this issue, as there are several factors to be considered before making a final decision. Brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] and brother Abu-al-Lutf [PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi] have asked me to accept this office. I am still examining issues for raising the representation to the required level, devising a work structure and mechanism, and defining the mission of this office. I will give an answer in my meeting with President 'Arafat in Brussels in two days.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let's move on to the Taba talks, which have met some obstacles and broken down. Was this issue discussed with the U.S. Administration?

['Ashrawi] Yes. The negotiations and lack of progress at Taba, especially regarding security issues, Israeli withdrawal, Israel's demands and the stand on the concept of security and maintaining the occupation in one way or another were discussed. We requested a qualitative change in Israel's thinking, proposal, and concept.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is this concept?

['Ashrawi] The Israeli concept envisages an intense presence by the Israeli Army in the areas from which it will withdraw, which means negating the idea or principle of withdrawal and the control of roads. This is in addition to the attempt to retain large parts of Gaza Strip, for instance, to preserve the settlers' and settlements' security, as they put it, and to control the border crossings and borders form within and outside the Gaza Strip and along the seacoast. All this undermines the principle of withdrawal and intensifies the Israeli military presence. This is what was said to the Israeli side at the negotiations. When he suspended the talks, Dr. Sha'th told them he was doing so in order to give the Israeli side an opportunity to consult with its government in order to change this stand and attitude and to consider carefully that we need to implement this agreement not play around with it or attempt to maintain occupation by force. Indeed, there are numerous positive efforts under way at this time to overcome these obstacles, which I believe are transitional. As you know, Egypt has played a great role in attempting to resolve this issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] [Words indistinct] in light of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel?

['Ashrawi] Yes.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Turning to the international economic conference on helping with the reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho, what was the conference's outcome?

['Ashrawi] The aim of that conference, which was held in Paris, was to rebuild and develop Palestinian economy in all Palestinian territories, not just in Gaza and Jericho. It was held within the context of a joint study prepared by the World Bank in cooperation with Palestinian experts both within and outside the occupied territories.

We submitted the Palestinian priorities, timetable, criteria, and the specific projects to be (?implemented) later according to these priorities and timetable.

The formation of a Palestinian council for development and reconstruction has been announced. The conference also decided to hold a session on 16 December to look into specific projects and follow up tangibly so that implementation can commence at the beginning of 1994.

Accepts Washington Office Position

JN0511184693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, will take charge of the PLO Washington office, according to authoritative Palestinian sources. The office, which the United States closed in 1990, will not be on the level of a diplomatic mission.

Hani al-Hasan Named Chairman of Talks Committee

NC0611123393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 6 Nov (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources report that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee—and one of the people who oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement—to chair the Palestinian committee supervising the Palestinian delegations participating in the multilateral talks which stem from the peace conference.

These sources clarify that Hani al-Hasan will replace Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', who will be freed for his new post as president of the Board of Governors of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction.

It is noteworthy that there were acute differences between 'Arafat and Hani al-Hasan due to the latter's opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. These differences reached the point where 'Arafat removed him from his position as one of the Fatah representatives in the PLO Central Council and banned him from attending the Council's recent meetings. 'Arafat also issued orders to close down his office.

Confession, Whereabouts of 'Mosad Spy' Reported

Details of Confessions Revealed

PM0511121093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali Salih and Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Leadership Takes Custody of Most Dangerous Mosad Spy, Forms Investigation Committee"]

[Excerpts] London, Tunis—A Palestinian security official in Tunis has revealed the formation of a Palestinian committee to interrogate 'Adnan Yasin, deputy Palestinian ambassador in Tunis, who has been arrested on charges of dealing with the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Palestinian security organ yesterday took custody of Yasin and his son, Hani, from Tunisian security authorities and put them in the PLO's prison in Hammam al-Shatt.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the investigation committee was formed four days ago in response to a decision of the Fatah Central Committee. The committee is headed by Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi, on the grounds that he is the official in charge of central security in the PLO. Its members include Fatah Central Committee member 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, Fatah Revolutionary Council member Majid al-Agha, and Amin al-Hindi, official in charge of national security. However, another Palestinian official has denied that the committee is headed by Bal'awi, but he confirmed its formation.

The security official, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his office in Tunis, said that "according to his confessions to Tunisian security authorities, Yasin was recruited in 1991 during his stay in Paris with his wife, who was being treated for cancer in French hospitals." The official added that "according to these confessions, the recruitment took place via a physician introduced to him as Egyptian, who helped him to translate the medical reports concerning his wife." The official did not rule out Yasin's link with the assassination in France nearly a year ago of 'Atif Busaysu, who was in charge of Palestinian security. According to the official, Yasin met with Busaysu before his assassination.

With regard to the fact that Yasin did not need money, the official said that "the PLO spent nearly $250,000 on his wife's medical treatment." He said "this is why the question being raised is: What are the reasons which prompted him to work for Mosad, when there are no financial motives, and is he working on his own or is he running a network working with him?" He added: "So far Yasin has not admitted the existence of a network working with him."

The official believes that Yasin's son, Hani, who was arrested with him on the same charges, is likely to be the weak point through which Mosad had access to him. This is in the knowledge that his son "was receiving his education in Germany and France! And he is known to be an alcoholic."

The official said that "Yasin frequented Germany and France a lot. Once he stayed in Germany for a whole month, during which it is believed he received training in the use of equipment. According to his confessions, he met an Italian there who is believed to be the Israeli recruiting officer."

The official said that "according to the confessions, Yasin received from Mosad $26,000-$30,000; the last payment was $10,000." [passage omitted]

The official denied the reports that the Mercedes car Hani sent to his father from France was full of detonation devices. He said it was carrying advanced technological and listening devices. And that he had supplied the Palestinian leadership with chairs and lampshades equipped with listening devices. [passage omitted]

Three PLO Figures 'Might Be Implicated'

PM0511163893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 1

['Ali al-Salih report: "Palestinian Official: Yasin's Confessions Affect Three Important Figures"]

[Excerpts] London—A well-informed Palestinian official has said that the Fatah Central Committee has deferred the issue of the committee it formed under Hakam Bal'awi to investigate the case of his deputy 'Adnan Yasin (Abu-Hani), who was arrested on charges of spying for the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad). The official attributed this to strong protests inside the Central Committee at Bal'awi's appointment to the committee.

On that basis, the official says that "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to Tunis yesterday from Mauritania, will personally follow up the case." [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Hani al-Hasan—with support from Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, and Muhammad Jihad, the military official and member of the Central Committee—demanded that the parties concerned be investigated—a reference to Bal'awi himself, on the grounds that the defendant is his deputy.

However, Bal'awi issued a statement denying that Yasin is his deputy or that he has any links with Palestinian security organs. He stressed that Yasin's disgraceful behavior caused him to be put under observation. And that he was suspended from work more than once.

The official, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his office in Tunis, did not rule out the possibility that some employees of the Pan-Arab Relations department, which is headed by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), might be implicated, on the grounds that it is responsible for relations with the Israelis and the Zionists.

A Palestinian source said that "Abu-Hani's confessions affect a known figure in the Pan-Arab Relations Department, another figure in the security organ entrusted with protecting 'Arafat, and a third figure working in PLO public relations."

The official expects Palestinian security organs to witness "comprehensive changes in the wake of this case, which has shaken the foundations of these organs." He said that there is a tendency calling for taking a position toward security officials, first and foremost Bal'awi himself, who is in charge of the central security organ by proxy. [passage omitted]

Alleged Spy Said Flown to Yemen

NC0611142093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 6 Nov (MENA)—Well-informed Palestinian sources today disclosed that 'Adnan Yasin, the Palestinian deputy ambassador in Tunisia, who is accused of spying for Israel, arrived in Yemen under guard yesterday, on the same plane that took Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat there.

According to the sources, after returning to Tunisia from Senegal, 'Arafat spent several hours in Tunisia during which Yasin and his son Hani were taken from a Palestinian prison in Tunisia to the plane, which later flew to Yemen with 'Arafat also on board.

The sources said that Tunisian authorities had asked the PLO to send Yasin outside the country for fear that he may be abducted or killed by the parties cooperating with him. The PLO concurred.

Yasin will be tried in Yemen by a Palestinian judge. There is a Palestinian court and public prosecutor in that country, the sources pointed out.

Yasin Reported Still in Tunis Prison

NC0611162793 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 6 (AFP)—A PLO committee is investigating one of its senior officials arrested here last month for allegedly spying for Israel, Palestinian sources said Saturday [6 November].

The committee is headed by the organization's Tunis representative, Hakam Bal'awi, who doubles as the PLO security chief.

A Palestinian official told AFP that the suspect, 'Adnan Hasan Yasin, was being held at a PLO prison in Tunis, contrary to reports that he had been transferred to Yemen.

Yemen serves as headquarters for the Palestinian revolutionary court, which in the past has tried major cases such as the assassination in January 1991 of the PLO's security mastermind, Salah Khalaf.

Yasin, 47, deputy to Bal'awi at the Tunis mission, was arrested October 25. His son Hani was also detained.

Palestinian sources said the Yasins were found to have placed listening devices in the offices of Bal'awi and another top official, Mahmud 'Abbas, who signed the autonomy deal with Israel on September 13.

'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat head the Palestinian follow-up committee for negotiations with Israel.

The two Yasins are accused of making clandestine broadcasts to Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, and they may have been plotting to kill 'Arafat in a car-bomb attack, according to Palestinian officials.

The case has sent shudders through PLO ranks in Tunis.

Officials said 'Adnan Yasin, who has been posted in Tunis since the late 1960s, well before the Palestine Liberation Organization set up its headquarters here in 1982, was highly regarded by most Palestinians.

Yasin was close to 'Arafat and often had direct access. He also had close links to 'Abbas.

Role of 'Spy' in Gaza-Jericho Detailed

JN0711140393 Amman AL-DIYAR in Arabic 7 Nov 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] Less than two months after the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between a number of PLO leaders and the Zionist enemy, signed for the PLO by Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, the biggest espionage scandal carried out by the Mossad within the PLO ranks was revealed.

Although the revelation that the assistant to Hakam Bal-'awi, who is in charge of PLO security, was recruited by the Mossad in 1990, is important, what is more important and exciting is the nature of the missions carried out by that spy, whose name is Hasan Yasin, known as Abu-Hani, and which paved the way for the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and for Mahmud 'Abbas signing the accord on behalf of the PLO.

High-ranking Palestinian security sources told AL-DIYAR that the most serious of the spy's activities was his involvement in the assassination of Palestinian leaders Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu-Jihad, and Salah Khalaf, known as Abu-Iyad. The assassination of Abu-Jihad and Abu-Iyad paved the way for Mahmud 'Abbas becoming second-in-command after Yasir 'Arafat.

The same sources wondered whether it would have been possible for the PLO to hold secret talks with Israel and conclude an agreement that ends the Palestine question—in an open celebration at the White House—*if* Abu-Iyad and Abu-Jihad had been alive?

The Palestinian sources said that the Mossad decision to kill Abu-Jihad and Abu-Iyad was not haphazard, especially since spy Abu-Hani confessed that this came after years of observing Mahmud 'Abbas and studying all his movements and behavior. Following that, the two leaders were assassinated to pave the way for 'Abbas to become second-in-command.

The sources said that before 25 October, there had been a missing link in the investigations of the assassination of the two Palestinian leaders, but this link was provided with Abu-Hani's confession that he assisted Salah Khalaf's assassin to enter Tunisia from neighboring Libya in order to carry out the operation.

Until now, the sources are unable to assess the damage caused to the PLO by 'Adnan Yasin's spying, especially since he was the second man in the PLO security organ and had access to very important documents.

'Adnan Yasin's espionage activities were not limited to observing and studying. He installed listening devices in the offices of all PLO leaders by presenting them with new desks as gifts in which he installed the world's most modern listening devices. His gifts even reached the director of the Tunisian intelligence service, whose men discovered this dangerous spy when they monitored his wireless transmissions.

The Palestinian sources disclosed that 'Adnan Yasin supervised both secret and declared Palestinian issues. He was also in charge of obtaining permission for Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories to enter Tunisia to meet with the Palestinian leadership. This gave him the opportunity to inform the Mossad of all the open and secret activities of the Palestinian leaders and PLO cadres.

Two PLO Officials Held in 'Worst' Spy Scandal

NC0811063393 Paris AFP in English 0525 GMT 8 Nov 93

[By Hamida ben Salah]

[Text] Tunis, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation is facing what could be its worst espionage scandal in its 28-year existence with the reported detention of two senior officials suspected of spying for Israel.

A well-informed Palestinian source in Tunis told AFP Sunday [7 November] night that Muhammad Sadiq Faysal, who worked in the radio transmissions service of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, was arrested at the end of October.

However, there was no official confirmation of Sadiq's arrest, revealed Sunday morning by the Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which quoted Palestinian security services in Tunis.

According to a well-informed Palestinian source here, Sadiq Faysal, 35, gave himself up of his own accord on October 26 to 'Arafat and confessed to being an agent of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

He was arrested immediately, according to the sources, and detained in Palestinian custody for interrogation. 'Arafat reportedly ordered "absolute secrecy" about the affair.

Sadiq, a specialist in radio installations and computers who worked for several years in the Palestinian transmissions centre at Hammam Shatt south of Tunis, had been employed for the past three years in 'Arafat's own office.

His arrest came the day after that of 'Adnan Hasan Yasin, the number two at the Palestinian "embassy" in Tunis.

Palestinian security officers are now reported to be trying to establish a link between the two men and track down eventual accomplices.

Several Palestinian leaders questioned by AFP refused to comment on the reports. Jibril Rajjub, an 'Arafat adviser, categorically denied the arrest of Sadiq, saying he was in Algeria and free to go where he wished.

Hakam Bal'awi, the "ambassador of Palestine" in Tunis who is also the PLO's security director, confirmed officially in a statement on Thursday the arrest of Yasin "for collaboration with enemy services".

Bal'awi denied that Yasin held any post of responsibility in an apparent bid to play down the role of his deputy.

However, the PLO leadership ordered the Palestinian news agency WAFA not to publish the statement, apparently because it disagreed with Bal'awi's insistence on minimising the affair.

The report of Sadiq's arrest, coming after that of Yasin sparked apprehension here about possible further disclosures and the impact the scandal might have on the PLO leadership.

The main target of the espionage operation appears to have been Mahmud 'Abbas alias Abu-Mazin, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and the man who for two years has been responsible for supervising peace talks with Israel.

According to various Palestinian sources, Abu-Mazin's office, which was used for confidential meetings with 'Arafat about the conduct of the talks, had been packed with listening devices by Yasin.

The sources said the Mossad must have been informed about the Palestinian position down to the last detail in the Oslo negotiations which led to the agreement signed in September on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

DFLP's Hawatimah Rejects Gaza-Jericho Pact

AU0811100893 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 8 Nov 93 p 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Gerhard Bitzan in Damascus; date not given: "Our People Will Judge 'Arafat"]

[Text] [Bitzan] Why are you fighting the Gaza-Jericho agreement so vehemently?

[Hawatimah] The Rabin-'Arafat agreement does not give the people their national rights as defined in international resolutions. Nor does it say what will happen with the refugees in the Diaspora—as many as 60 percent of our people.

In addition, the agreement ignores what was discussed and achieved in the bilateral negotiations in Washington. Rabin gave 'Arafat less than what was negotiated in Washington. The agreement does not give our people genuine authority over the country; it merely gives the people self-administration.

[Bitzan] How do you intend to fight the agreement?

[Hawatimah] The problem is that there are differences within our people. We are, therefore, calling for a comprehensive democratic front against Israel. We will solve our differences in a democratic way. But the armed struggle against Israel must be continued. We will continue the Intifadah. We do not think the agreement has any chance of survival, because the majority of our people are opposed to it.

[Bitzan] Your relationship with 'Arafat was very good in the past. What are your relations with him now?

[Hawatimah] 'Arafat has destroyed everything—both the coalition between the Palestinian organizations and the minimum program that we shared. There is today a deep rift within the PLO, and the 'Arafat wing is the only group supporting the PLO chief. If civil war breaks out among the Palestinians, 'Arafat will be responsible for it.

[Bitzan] Do you support other Palestinian leaders' calls for the assassination of 'Arafat?

[Hawatimah] We have rejected killing and murdering among Palestinians for 25 years. We are opposed to any call for assassination. We leave it to the people to judge 'Arafat.

[Bitzan] The rejectionist front also includes two radical Islamic groups—Jihad and HAMAS. What do you have in common with them?

[Hawatimah] We are a democratic movement. Today, all tendencies in our people are called upon to unite for one goal.

That is why there is a certain cooperation between us and the Islamic groups. It is a tactical cooperation with a common denominator—the fight against occupation.

DFLP's Khalid Confirms Rifts Among 10 Factions

JN0811105493 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 13

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib]

[Excerpts] Taysir Khalid, who withdrew from the PLO Executive Committee, and who is a member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has confirmed that there are differences of opinion among the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In an interview with AL-ASWAQ, Khalid said these differences are due to the presentation of more than one

political plan by the alliance members on ways to confront the agreement. He said that is this is a natural phenomenon, and added that common political denominators form the bases of this alliance. [passage omitted]

Khalid explained the DFLP position toward the program presented for discussion by the 10 factions and said: We in the DFLP adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy. We call for implementing these resolutions, and we believe that this position should not be a point of contention with our brothers in the other factions. We do not see why the international legitimacy resolutions are rejected by this or that faction.

Khalid described as strange Hamas's rejection of the phased solution. He said that more than once the Hamas Movement leaders have emphasized that they do not reject a phased solution. The latest such statement was what was attributed to jailed Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. [passage omitted]

Asked about the position of the Palestinian opposition in the event a Syrian-Israeli agreement is reached, Taysir Khalid said the Palestinian opposition does not at all fear the results of a Syrian-Israeli agreement, saying that the DFLP policy is governed by the higher interests of the Palestinian people. He added that the DFLP leaders and establishments are present not only in Syria, but that the backbone of the front is in the occupied Arab territories, and the front has a wide and effective presence in several other countries.

Khalid said: The concluding of a Syrian-Israeli agreement is not that easy because there are essential and deep differences between the two sides. However, if a Syrian-Israeli accord is reached, we will see whether or not it harms our national interests, and then we will not hesitate to declare a clear and frank position on it.

DFLP Group Claims Responsibility for Hebron Attack

JN0711125493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The Red Star forces affiliated with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] this morning carried out an armed attack on the car of Rabbi Hayim Druckman, founder of the extremist religious group of Gush Emunim. The attack took place near the town of Bayt Kahil south of Hebron.

A statement issued by the Red Star forces said that an armed group ambushed Rabbi Druckman, who calls for the annexation of the occupied territories to Israel, and fired 20 rifle shots at his car, killing his driver immediately and severely wounding Rabbi Druckman.

The Red Star forces announced that they will continue their armed operations against settlers and occupation troops. They warned settlers that their attacks on the Palestinian people will not go unpunished.

This attack prompted hundreds of Jewish settlers to take to the streets of Hebron and the occupied Gaza Strip, where they attacked houses, commercial stores, and cars, and clashed with Palestinians in several areas.

Al-Husayni Notes Regret for Killings

TA0811125193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni's office issued a statement yesterday which said:

Since the beginning of the peace process, we have reiterated that one should not resort to violence, no matter what the cause.

Despite the fact that the circumstances surrounding yesterday's event in the Hebron region that resulted in the death of a settler and the injury of another are still unknown, it makes us reaffirm our regret for the killings on both sides. At the same time, we strongly condemn attacks and assaults by settlers against the Palestinian people and their property. We hold the Israeli Government and Army responsible for the welfare of Palestinian civilians.

The lesson from these events is that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories as soon as possible in accordance with the articles of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

These events also prove that with their irresponsible conduct and repeated attacks, the settlers constitute a source of anarchy and instability and that an end to the Israeli occupation is the only way to achieve peace and security for the people of the region.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 November carries a report by Moti Amir which adds that "in a meeting with correspondents in East Jerusalem, al-Husayni said that if the settlers do not stop harassing Arabs in the territories, the Palestinians will have no choice but to defend themselves. He called for an international force to be stationed in the territories to defend local residents because, he claimed, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not doing this."]

Hamas Reportedly Kills Collaboration Suspect

NC0711192593 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 7 (AFP)—A Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities was shot dead Sunday [7 November] by the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, Palestinian sources said.

Suhayl al-Ahmad, 20, was shot in the head near his place of work in the occupied Gaza Strip. His assailant left a letter at the site claiming that HAMAS had killed the man for his collaboration with Israel.

The sources said Ahmad's brother was killed a year ago for the same reason.

'Urayqat Assesses Israeli Municipal Elections

JN0511201793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1746 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy leader of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, speaking from Jerusalem to Salim Badawi in the studio; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] If we look at the number of those who participated in the [Israeli municipal] elections from among those eligible to vote, we find that the ratio is the lowest in the history of Israeli local elections. Only 36 percent participated. Normally, local elections take a line far removed from politics, concentrating on internal problems. For example, in Tel Aviv, Roni Milo from the Likud bloc, who supported the PLO-Israeli agreement, won the election, whereas in Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, who is now 84 and who has been a mayor for 28 years, lost. This means that perhaps a change was desired. Therefore, I do not put much emphasis on the political aspects or the political significance of these elections.

[Badawi] The Palestinian position stressed the need for boycotting the election, despite fears of a possible victory for the Israeli right. Was it not possible to effect a formula that could take both the boycott and the fears into account?

['Urayqat] First of all, the Palestinian stand on Jerusalem has been well-known since 1967. We rejected the annexation of Jerusalem and, therefore, any participation in these elections by our Palestinian people from east Jerusalem could mean, politically, that we accept the annexation and the principle of a single municipality. Therefore, this has been our principled position since 1967. We have always said that we reject the annexation of Jerusalem. We reject the measures by the Labor government, the Likud government, or the municipality on the settlements, on expanding the town, deporting the Arab inhabitants, reducing the Arab population to a minority, harassing the Arab inhabitants, and preventing Arab family reunions. These measures were carried out by the Labor government and Teddy Kollek.

There is no difference between Labor and the Likud as far as Jerusalem is concerned. We noticed that in his first statement Olmert, the new Likud mayor of Jerusalem, said he would not change Teddy Kollek's policy. We said Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied territory and eventually will decided the failure or success of the peace process.

[Badawi] But do you not fear that the new Jerusalem mayor will adopt a policy that can hinder the final solution that you wish for Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] First of all, the PLO signed an agreement with Israel and is holding negotiations with the Israeli Government, not with municipalities in Israel. Therefore, the Israeli Government is aware that during the transitional period, elections will be held in which the Arab inhabitants will participate, by both voting and running for office, that there will be definite arrangements in education, health, and other issues, and then the final status of Jerusalem, both east and west, will be discussed, less than two years after the transitional period takes effect.

Therefore, if the Israeli Government does not want to commit itself to what it had signed, then this means that it has violated the agreement. If the municipality carries out harassments such as increasing settlements and settlers, encouraging religious schools for the extremist Jews who supported the Likud candidate, then this will create a fresh spate of tension. I believe that we have always seen these things happen in Jerusalem.

[Badawi] Do you blame Rabin for turning the municipal elections into a referendum on both the peace process and the ongoing negotiations with the PLO? ['Urayqat] I believe Rabin has made a mistake. Rabin realizes he used this phrase only for propaganda purposes. However, this phrase is actually unfounded on the political level.

[Badawi] But, do you share his opinion that the Labor Party s loss in Jerusalem will not have a positive impact on the Israeli peace efforts?

['Urayqat] Sir, Rabin realizes why they lost in Jerusalem. A week before elections, they announced the building of a quarter for settlers in the center of Arab Jerusalem. They also know the extremist and religious votes went to the Likud Party. Consequently, they lost the votes of the religious and extremist people, as well as the votes of moderate Jews. This is a serious phenomenon for the entire Labor party, not only regarding what happened in the elections in Jerusalem, but also what happened in other areas. The Labor Party should decide if it really wants peace. Rabin should decide if he is ready for peace. If so, he will realize that measures should be taken on the ground. Hesitation and attempts to gain the votes of all the parties, altogether, will lead to nothing.

[Badawi] Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: The Israeli municipal elections this week coincided with the suspension of the Taba negotiations. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa seemed optimistic in the wake of his talks in Tel Aviv. An Israeli Foreign Ministry official expects the negotiations will resume next week. Meanwhile, the PLO demands a summit meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin to unleash the negotiations. My question to you is: In your opinion, what are the conditions for resuming the Taba negotiations? How do you interpret the Israeli position on the issue of withdrawals?

['Urayqat] First, the agreement clearly provides for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. However, we sensed in the Israeli proposal to the Palestinian negotiators, at the negotiating table in Taba, that there will be a reorganization of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip, not even redeployment. This is very much a controversial issue. Negotiations cannot continue on this basis. The agreement stipulates that if large controversial issues are encountered, they

will be referred to the Liaison Committee co-chaired by Mahmud 'Abbas on our side and Shim'on Peres on the Israeli side.

If the Liaison Committee cannot reach an agreement, an arbitration committee will be formed with the consent of both parties. There is yet a third mechanism, namely, intervention by a third party, as we saw Egypt do yesterday, and as the United States and other states may do. There is also a great possibility of a summit meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin. We do not exclude a fifth possibility, which is secret negotiations. Thus, there are no specific conditions. All that is required of Israel is to honor what it has signed. The phrase withdrawal means withdrawal. This is not an Israeli negotiating position. It is an Israeli position that publicly and frankly tries to obstruct the negotiations and empty the Declaration of Principles of any real content.

[Badawi] What is your position on this particular Israeli position?

['Urayqat] We announced our position in an official protest against the Israeli procrastination in the negotiations and against making impossible proposals. Linking this to what is happening on the ground in terms of the savage attacks the settlers have carried out against our Palestinian people, such as setting cars and houses ablaze and attacking defenseless residents under the protection of the Israeli army, these practices on the ground, in themselves, and those at the negotiating table pose grave threats to all aspects of the peace process.

We announced our position to the world. We requested assistance from the states interested in the peace process. We also explained our position to Egypt, the United States, and other states. We said that Israel's continuation of these practices would eventually place the peace process in a very serious impasse.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Productions Falls to 24.7 MBD in Oct

AU0811110993 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] PARIS, Nov 8 (AFP)—OPEC oil production fell by 220,000 barrels per day in October from the figure in September to 24.72 million barrels per day (MBD), the Petrostrategies publication reported on Monday [8 November].

Excluding the embargoed output by Iraq, output exceeded the ceiling limit set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of 24.5 MBD by 100,000 barrels per day.

OPEC set the limit for output during the six months from October 1 to March 31.

Petrostrategies reported that Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had exceeded their quotas slightly. But Algeria, Libya and Nigeria had produced less than they were permitted.

But the price of crude oil continued to fall because output from the North Sea had been increased, because demand was weak and because refineries in Europe and the Far East were de-stocking.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported on Monday that OPEC output in October had been 24.78 MBD.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) had estimated on Friday that the 12 OPEC countries had produced 24.65 MBD in October.

Algeria

Policeman, 2 Islamists Die in Search Operations

NC0611184993 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 6 (AFP)—Two armed Moslem fundamentalists and a police officer died Saturday [6 November] during two separate search operations in areas east and south of the capital, Algerian security services said.

Police killed one of the fundamentalists while looking for a kidnapped civilian in Ait-Rahmoun, east of Algiers. The kidnap victim was found alive.

A policeman also died in the operation, the sources added.

Another armed fundamentalist, identified as Mahfoud el-Akrouf, was killed in a separate operation in Blida, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of here.

Police also found 13 hunting rifles and two automatic pistols in a hiding-place in the eastern town of Beni Saker.

In the past six days, security forces have killed 43 armed Islamic fundamentalists, the sources said.

The security operations are part of a crackdown on a wave of terrorism which began after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

Islamic fundamentalists recently kidnapped and killed a number of foreigners.

The Armed Islamic Group, which claimed the abduction of three French consular officials rescued by police a week ago, said Wednesday it was giving foreigners in Algeria one month to leave the country or face "sudden death."

Security Services Kill 7 'Terrorists'

LD0711211993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Security services have announced that seven terrorists were killed between Friday and Saturday in Boumerdes and Relizane. During a search operation, security forces seized an Uzi automatic gun and two pistols in addition to two hunting rifles.

In another development, it has been learned from security services that the chairman of the (Chetia) regional delegation in the Chlef province has been assassinated.

Security Reinforced Around French Buildings

LD0511191993 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] In Algeria reinforced security measures [are in force] around official French buildings in Algiers, Oran, and Annaba. The French presence is moving toward a minimum service because of threats made by Islamic fundamentalists. The 1,000 officials who are directly dependent on the authority of the ambassador have been asked to repatriate their families as quickly as possible.

Special Courts on Press Infringements Abolished

LD0711235993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The Justice Ministry has abolished the special courts on press infringements set up two years ago. The Ministry says: From now on, press infringements will be referred to disciplinary courts.

The creation of such courts by the Justice Ministry caused wide complaint among national press circles.

It is worth pointing out that sentences were passed on no less than 20 journalists by those courts during the past two years.

Communications Minister Merzoug Resigns

LD0711210493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Minister of Communications and Culture Mr. Mohamed Merzoug has submitted his resignation to the prime minister for health reasons. The Algerian press agency says that the prime minister accepted his resignation and that a new minister of communications would be appointed in due course.

Constitutional National Union 'Optimistic' Over Dialogue

LD0511205393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] The Constitutional National Union announced in a statement that it is optimistic over the results of its contacts with the dialogue commission. At the same time it called for an in-depth dialogue that would be adopted as a substitute to thrash out the outstanding issues.

It supports the idea of holding a responsible national conference within the framework of a consensus of all Algerians to restore constitutional legitimacy which is achieved by respecting the great principles of the constitution and working in accordance with the principles so as to rescue Algeria, ensure the success of the future stage, and overcome the strife. Historic responsibility requires the making of collective concessions for the sake of the supreme interest of the country.

Signed: The Boumedienist Islamic National Front; the Algerian Party for Justice and Progress; the Association of Independence Generations; the National Party for Solidarity and Development; the Social Movement for Authenticity; the Party of Science, Justice and Labor, and the Democratic Progressive Party [parties in the Constitutional National Union]

Egypt

'Arafat Visits Cairo, Discusses Peace Talks

Arrives 7 Nov

NC0711062993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning from Yemen on a visit to Egypt. During his visit 'Arafat will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on developments in the peace negotiations with Israel.

Meets Mubarak

NC0711103793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting. 'Arafat left Cairo after meeting with President Mubarak.

Discusses Peace Process

NC0711125093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that during their meeting today, President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat discussed the Middle East peace process, the Gaza-Jericho talks, the results of Foreign Minister Musa's visit to Israel, and the existing possibilities for the resumption of the negotiations in the coming few days.

Musa said that these negotiations will take place on the basis of narrowing the existing differences in views and the meticulous and faithful implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

He noted that the Palestinian president's arrival from Sanaa this morning provided an opportunity for discussing the recent developments in Yemen in particular, the situation in the Arab world in general, and the efforts for Arab reconciliation.

Says Talks With Israel To Resume

NC0711134393 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 7 Nov 93

[By Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat announced here Sunday [7 November] that the Palestinians agreed to resume autonomy negotiations with Israel, but in Cairo, away from the glare of publicity, rather than Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba.

Israeli state radio, meanwhile, also said the talks would move from Taba and reconvene this week.

The negotiations, 'Arafat told reporters after meeting President Husni Mubarak, are to "resume very soon in Cairo." He declined to give a date for a new round of the talks, which the PLO broke off last Tuesday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th told reporters the date would be kept secret to avoid publicity.

The decision to return to the talks was taken because of the results of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel last week, 'Arafat said, declining to elaborate.

Musa had voiced optimism the talks would resume after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The Palestinian delegation quit the autonomy talks after accusing Israel of trying to renege on a commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israel proposed to pull back troops to three areas around Jewish settlements on the strip, voicing security concerns, while the Palestinians demanded a "general military withdrawal."

'Arafat said the Cairo negotiations would be undertaken by an "ad hoc committee," which Sha'th said would comprise four members of each delegation and focus on Israel's "concept of security."

The Palestinians have complained that Taba is isolated and has poor communications. Both sides have also warned that media scrutiny could scuttle their delicate negotiations, which have to be completed within the next month.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly told the cabinet on Sunday that the atmosphere for negotiations would improve at another site.

"Taba was not the best place to hold negotiations and other sites are under study," Rabin told the cabinet, according to Israeli radio.

Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben Ari told AFP: "The talks will start again soon, probably elsewhere, because we want to get away from the cameras and microphones and hold more intensive negotiations."

Four rounds of negotiations have been held at Taba since October 13, when the autonomy agreement for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho came into effect.

Under the agreement, Israel and the PLO have until December 13 to reach an interim accord on troop withdrawal and the transfer of authority for education, social welfare, tourism, direct taxation and health.

Meets U.S. Envoy Pelletreau

NC0711194193 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat discussed international financial support for Palestinian autonomy with U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau here Sunday. [7 November]

The talks focussed on the results of the first meeting last Friday of the ad hoc committee grouping donor countries, at the Paris offices of the World Bank, 'Arafat told reporters.

International assistance for Palestinian autonomy is to total 600 million dollars for 1994, and almost two billion dollars over five years.

The ad hoc committee was set up after the signing of the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal in Washington on September 13.

The committee consists of the E.C., the European Investment Bank, Canada, Japan, United States, Egypt, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the United Nations, Palestinian representatives, and the World Bank—the latter acting as secretariat.

On October 1 the European Community promised 500 million Ecus (585 million dollars) in aid to the Palestinians in the occupied territories spread over five years, while the United States pledged 500 million dollars and Japan 200 million, at a meeting in Washington. 'Arafat called the pledges "insufficient."

Receives Message From U.S. Administration

NC0711174393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1727 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Palestinian Information Office in Cairo stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau before his departure from Cairo today. The source said that Pelletreau handed 'Arafat a message from the U.S. Administration dealing with the Paris meeting on economic cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides that will be held this month. It added that the message also dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest and the means of removing any obstacles facing the Taba talks.

Thanks Mubarak for Peace Efforts

NC0711175993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed his thanks and gratitude for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to restart the peace process.

In statements made public today by the Palestinian Information Office in Cairo, President 'Arafat expressed his appreciation for President Mubarak's efforts to resume the Taba negotiations and for sending Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Israel for that purpose. He added that the obstacles that have faced these negotiations were the result of the Israeli side's misunderstanding and not the result of ambiguity in the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel.

Musa on Taba Talks, Somalia, Libya, Sudan

NC0611171893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated today that the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli parties will by necessity resume in the near future, noting that contacts are under way with the Palestinian side in light of the contacts he held with Israeli officials during his visit to Israel two days ago. Musa said that President Mubarak's talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow will focus on this issue. He stressed that Egypt is seeking to secure progress on all tracks, primarily the Syrian track. He noted that Egypt's policy aims at achieving a comprehensive peace on all fronts and not on one or two.

On the Egyptian position on the Somali problem, Musa said that the Egyptian role stems from two principles: first, its role as chairman of the OAU and the latter's resolutions on this crisis and second, Egypt's interest in the situation in the Horn of Africa. Therefore, he said, Egypt is interested in finding a solution to the Somali problem. He stressed that Egypt is playing its role within the framework of the resolutions of the Addis Ababa conference for national reconciliation, the OAU resolutions, respect for the international legitimacy's resolutions, and Egypt's good relations with all factions in Somalia. He noted that Egypt believes that all Somali factions have a right to participate in and contribute to implementing the national reconciliations resolutions. He said that Egypt participates in the UN forces in Somalia and will continue to do so. Musa emphasized that Egypt is holding active contacts to follow up on the situation in Somalia. He noted that Egypt wants to place this problem on a track toward a solution in the next six months before the withdrawal of the U.S. forces, a solution based on national reconciliation, ceasefire, disarming the militias, and rebuilding the state.

On the Libyan-Western crisis, Musa said that Egypt did all it could to resolve this problem. He noted that reports from the United Nations indicate that a resolution to toughen sanctions against Libya is in (?preparation) and will be put forward to the Security Council in the near future.

On the meetings and contacts President Mubarak held recently with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Musa said that these contacts had two aims: Discussing the situation in the Arab world and peace. He stressed that the issue of holding an Arab summit at present was not broached.

Responding to a question on the Sudanese foreign minister's statement on Sudan's position on Hala'ib, Musa said: "Such statements are uncalled for as long as there is a possibility of Egyptian-Sudanese meetings." He noted that meetings between the two countries hinge on good faith, stressing that the goal is to maintain Egyptian-Sudanese ties in confronting the movements and actions that threaten them. He noted that Egypt wants the ties between the two countries to serve their common interests and not want statements and actions to harm them.

Musa Hopes for Progress on Syria-Israel Track

NC0611070993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his belief that the difficulties facing the Taba negotiations regarding withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho can be overcome. He pointed out that such obstacles are natural. The foreign minister said in a television interview that there are tangible developments in the peace process and that the two sides, the Israeli and Palestinian, must try to implement the agreement they have signed.

'Amr Musa pointed out that he had discussed with Israeli officials specific topics dealing with all the tracks of the peace process, including the Syrian-Israeli track. He expressed his hope that there will be some progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The foreign minister said: It should be made clear that we are working within the framework of land for peace and everything in return for everything, because comprehensive peace has only one meaning and no two people can disagree over it. Peace cannot take place without full withdrawal. This is a well-known and acceptable formula in general.

'Amr Musa recently traveled to Israel on a short visit, during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the peace process in the Middle East.

Musa: Palestinian-Israeli Talks To Resume 8 Nov

NC0711153693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume tomorrow, but he did not define the venue of the talks. He said that Egypt emphasizes the importance of continuing the talks in order to fully implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement in accordance with its articles within the framework of the Madrid Conference formula. He noted that Egypt held contacts with the Palestinians and Israelis and put forward its own views. He said that both parties responded positively to the Egyptian position in this respect and that the obstacles that obstructed the talks have been overcome. He pointed out that Egypt is exerting efforts to achieve successful results in the peace process.

U.S. Asks Cairo To End Boycott, Arrange Summit

NC0511170193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have revealed that the U.S. Administration has asked Egypt to do all it can to push the Arab countries to abolish their economic boycott of the Zionist enemy. Egypt justified the continuing boycott by noting a resolution passed unanimously by the Arab League following the 1967 aggression. It stressed that ending the boycott is linked with a comprehensive settlement and the return of all usurped Arab rights. But Egypt promised to seek to fulfill the request as soon as progress is made on the other tracks.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. Administration has asked Cairo to play an active role in bringing Syria and the Zionist enemy's views closer. Washington also asked Cairo to arrange a summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Syria has rejected such a meeting, adhering to the need for progress in the negotiations and recognition of the need for withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

Commentary Urges Effort To Reach Peace

NC0711183793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "A Just Peace Requires More Sacrifices and Proof of Good Intentions"]

[Text] It is wrong to imagine that the mere signing of an agreement and mutual recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government will end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The meeting of the two main parties to this chronic, complicated problem at a negotiating table, their agreement on a declaration of principles, and their signing of the Gaza-Jericho First accord constituted only the first step toward a potential just political settlement that guarantees the legitimate rights of the region's nations, including the Palestinians.

Because Egypt understands this fact well and because it has prior experience in negotiating with Israel, it has made efforts since the Washington agreement was signed to safeguard the peace process and encourage negotiations between Israel and the PLO at all levels. It has urged the two sides to continue talking until a solution acceptable to all is reached.

This is the Egyptian leadership's chief preoccupation: Mubarak and Egypt's diplomatic establishment have been active in this connection in the region and worldwide. In addition, Mubarak's wisdom and his pan-Arab sense have made him realize that Middle East peace must be one integral whole and that progress must be made on the other Arab negotiating tracks just as it has on the Palestinian-Israeli track. In this way, there will be real peace throughout the region that will benefit all its nations.

Egypt's constant and intensive efforts were illustrated by Mubarak's recent meeting with U.S. President Clinton in Washington, his subsequent meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand to win over French and Western European support for the peace process, and finally his visit to Damascus to brief Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the latest peace developments and the results of his Washington talks. He urged Syria to continue confronting Israel with the peace challenge.

Egypt has done more. In the past few days it made intensive efforts to resume the suspended Taba talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations over the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. This made it necessary to consult with the PLO leadership, notably President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This explains the purpose of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel and his talks with its prime minister and foreign minister.

Likewise, Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat in Cairo today basically centered on the question of resuming the Taba talks. We do not rule out the idea that a new meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, to be attended by 'Arafat and Rabin, will be arranged with a view toward solving the Palestinian-Israeli disagreement over withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. This must be done to prevent the collapse of the peace process.

Egypt, proceeding from its historical responsibility for the Arab nation and its vital causes, persists in its efforts to safeguard the peace process until it attains its ultimate conclusion. It is equally important for all the parties concerned with the conflict to act and seek rapprochement over the quest for a just peace. This applies especially to Israel, which must show goodwill and demonstrate, by actual acts, its sincere wish to attain a just peace based on the land-for-peace principle in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Above all, Israel must understand, as Mubarak repeatedly declared, that peace must be dearly bought and requires great sacrifices for the sake of all the nations living in the Arab region.

AL-AHRAM Urges Israel To Disarm Settlers

NC0611075393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has urged the Israeli Government to act fast and disarm the Israeli settlers and restrict their movements in the occupied Palestinian territories. The paper notes that the Israeli Defense Ministry allows the settlers to carry these weapons and, indeed, supplied them.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM notes that the settlers' militias are so well armed that they can carry out extensive and prolonged operations. It says their current demonstrations and muscle-flexing exercises are designed to intimidate the Palestinians.

The paper adds: The settlers' aggressive activities are raising questions about how to maintain the Palestinian people's security during the transitional period.

In conclusion, the paper warns that if the Palestinian people do not feel secure, they might begin to support hardline groups who cast doubts on the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and who have no faith in the entire peace process.

Al-Baz Leaves for Syria With Message for al-Asad

NC0811101693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director for political affairs of the President's Office, left Cairo for Damascus today on a one-day visit to Syria. In a predeparture statement, Dr. al-Baz said that he is carrying a message from President Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr. al-Baz noted Egypt's interest in promoting progress on the Syrian track of the Middle East peace talks, which he said is one of the important tracks. He stressed the need to advance on all Arab tracks and not to exclude any of the tracks due to Israel's claim that it needs more time or anything of the sort. He added: Israel knows very well that it is committed to act within a comprehensive peace framework and not seek separate agreements or be choosy.

Dr. al-Baz stressed that it is not possible to hold talks in the absence of official negotiations or outside the official framework. He noted that the appropriate way to make progress on the Syrian track is to resume the Washington talks so that both the Syrian and Israeli parties can make progress through mutual understanding.

Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Ends Visit

NC0711151493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon after a five-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. During his visit, the Saudi minister held talks with Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, on bolstering Egyptian-Saudi military relations. It has been agreed that the naval forces of both countries will conduct joint training exercises in the Red Sea with the aim of preserving its security. Both parties also agreed to exchange visits by military delegations and expertise and to cooperate in military industrialization.

Prince Sultan told reporters that his visit to Egypt was successful and that he felt the warm feelings exhibited by the great Egyptian people. He noted that his meeting with President Mubarak was characterized by amity, fraternity, and cooperation. He praised Egyptian-Saudi

ties, describing them as fraternal and historic. During his visit, Prince Sultan visited a number of military industries, including Military Factory 200, which is considered to be the largest and most modern plant for the production of armored vehicles in the Middle East. He was seen off at the airport by Field Marshal Tantawi and senior Army officers.

Discusses Military Cooperation

LD0711215793 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 7, SPA—The meeting of Prince Sultan 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had focused on the outcome of the military talks held earlier between the Saudi second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and Egyptian Defence and Military Production Minister Field Marshal Mohammed Husayn Tantawi, according to Mohammed Abdul-Munem, head of the press office at the Egyptian presidency.

"Prince Sultan and Field Marshal Tantawi have informed President Mubarak that their talks have been excellent and fruitful. The necessary arrangements have been made to realize effective cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two countries including holding of joint training sessions and exchange of visits and scholarships," the Middle East news agency quoted Abdul-Munem as saying.

Abdul-Munem said the meeting of Prince Sultan with President Mubarak has provided a clear evidence for the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Egypt.

Opponent of PLO-Israeli Accord Arrested for Spying

NC0711195993 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP) - An Egyptian intellectual opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process arrested on charges of spying for China was freed Sunday [7 November] after being interrogated, police said.

Left-winger Sami Mansur, who was arrested Friday along with an unidentified Chinese national, was questioned by the high state security court's prosecutor. Mansur's lawyers said Friday that an Egyptian agronomist, Salah Muhammad al-Shadhili, was arrested with the two others.

Police said al-Shadhili and the Chinese man were still being detained.

Mansur has written several books on the Arab-Israeli conflict and is an outspoken opponent of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord signed on September 13 in Washington.

Indonesian Finance Minister Meets Musa, al-Razzaz

NC0611110793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Indonesian Finance Minister Mari'e Muhammad who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Indonesian minister stated after the meeting that he had reaffirmed his country's support for the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles and that Indonesia considers it an important step in reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

He said that he discussed with 'Amr Musa and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz the scope for cooperation between Egypt and Indonesia in the economic and trade fields. He affirmed his country's desire to support and develop this cooperation in various fields in the interest of both peoples.

Discusses Economic Issues

NC0711114493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian-Indonesian financial talks held for the past three days between Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz and Indonesian Finance Minister Mari'e Muhammad, who is currently visiting Cairo, ended today.

A responsible Finance Ministry source said the conferees agreed to discuss and study the prevention of dual taxation between the two countries, bilateral cooperation on financial issues, and ways that Egypt can benefit from Indonesia's experience in consolidating investment and reforming the tax system.

The source noted that the two countries' circumstances regarding the application of economic reform policies are very similar, especially because Indonesia resorted to this after the cost of servicing the debt there reached 30 percent.

Departs Cairo

NC0711123993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Indonesian Finance Minister Mari'e Muhammad left Cairo today at the end of a visit of several days.

The Indonesian minister held several meetings with Egyptian officials on the promotion of bilateral cooperation and exchanges of views and expertise on the two countries' experiments with economic reform.

A date was set for the next meeting of the joint Indonesian- Egyptian committee to consolidate bilateral economic cooperation. They also agreed to discuss and study the avoidance of dual taxation between Egypt and Indonesia.

Zairian President Departs After Private Visit

NC0611110393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko left Cairo today after a one-week private visit to Egypt.

Seeing him off at the airport was Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi.

Fundamentalists Hold Demonstration at Cairo University

NC0611183593 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 6 (AFP)—Nearly 1,000 Moslem fundamentalists demonstrated Saturday [6 November] at Cairo University to protest the arrest of 14 students and the expulsion of 300 others from their dormitories.

Anti-riot police in 15 vehicles prevented the demonstrators—who said they were members of the Moslem Brotherhood and the militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah movement—from marching off campus, police said.

The students carried a coffin and a scarecrow on which they wrote: "The defunct university administration."

They were criticizing the university administration's inaction over the expulsion of 300 students from their dormitories as well as a government ban on student gatherings and publications.

"Rejoice, rejoice, Rabin, there are also deportees in Cairo," the demonstrators chanted.

They were referring to the expulsion by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of some 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to south Lebanon in December 1992.

The university administration on Saturday promised to settle the matter of the expelled or arrested students after protests by the fundamentalists, university sources said.

On Wednesday, Egyptian authorities ordered the arrest of 26 students accused of ransacking the office of the university's chancellor, Mufid Shihab.

Students told AFP that 20 of those students were arrested and mistreated by the state security services, but the police reported that 14 students were arrested.

Saturday's protesters, including about 100 veiled women, vowed to pursue their demonstrations as long as their colleagues remain in custody.

The president of Cairo University's student union, Hatim Zayd, a Moslem fundamentalist, said the students "oppose violence but demand a halt to the arbitrary arrests and reject the presence of police informers on campus."

He said relatives of many students sought by authorities had "been held hostage" at police stations until the arrest of those students.

In the northern port of Alexandria, the mostly fundamentalist Lawyers' Syndicate met late Friday to denounce the expulsion of 500 fundamentalist students from the dormitories there. Some 100 students were present.

Gunmen Kill Police Officer in Aswan

NC0711104893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0943 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Aswan, 7 Nov (MENA)—'Abd-al-Fattah Husayn, 52, a noncommissioned police officer in Aswan City's State Detective Agency, Upper Egypt, was killed when unidentified men shot him on al-Nasiriyah Bridge east of Aswan City as he left home for his workplace at 0800 today.

A 12-year-old boy, Samih Jaballah, a student at al-Nasiriyah Elementary School, was shot in the left hand when the assailants fired at the police officer. The child was taken to the Public Hospital in Aswan where he received treatment.

Hospital Director Dr. Muhammad al-Amin said the child's condition is satisfactory and that he is currently receiving medical treatment.

Aswan security agencies encircled the area to search for the culprits.

Countries Asked To Hand Over Fugitive Terrorists

NC0511164993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Text] Some Arab countries have agreed to Egypt's request to hand over terrorists living in these countries—those wanted in particular cases or those against whom verdicts have been passed. Negotiations are under way with other countries to reach agreement on handing over fugitive terrorists. These countries have requested notification of the verdicts against the terrorists to take the necessary measures to hand them over immediately. Stating this, Major General 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Nahhas, first assistant to the interior minister for security affairs, added that the security agencies recently monitored suspicious movements and contacts by terrorist leaders from several foreign countries with particular groups in Egypt. Some wanted terrorist leaders went to European countries, notably Bulgaria and Denmark, after the Pakistani authorities tightened the noose around them following coordination with the Egyptian security authorities to hunt down the leaders who lived in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen al-Nahhas stressed that the security agencies monitored the funds sent from abroad and pinpointed

the sources of funding. This helped the security agencies hunt down fugitive leaders who played an active role in issuing instructions to carry out terrorist crimes. He pointed out that security plans have been drawn up supervised by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to exterminate the terrorists. These agencies, he said, seek to take the initiative rather than react in confronting terrorism. Instructions have been issued to all security sectors to reorganize guards at embassies, consulates, and important sites and link them by radio. He said the security authorities will reinforce protection services at underground and train stations, transport facilities, and airports and enhance protection at bridges and important establishments.

Assembly Speaker Said Target of Semiramis Shooting

NC0511161593 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tharwat Shalabi]

[Text] The security agencies are conducting a broad investigation into the bloody incident at the Semiramis Hotel on Tuesday evening last week. The investigation is being conducted amid extraordinary interest in the incident, its circumstances, and its surprises, which have not unfolded fully.

Investigations are concentrating on a two-sided question: Is defendant Sabir Muhammad Farahat associated with terrorist groups or did these groups use the defendant's mental illness to carry out the crime that claimed the life of a prominent French scholar, Professor Fernand Boulan, dean of Marseille Law College? The French professor was participating in a conference organized by the Egyptian Criminal Code Association chaired by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur. Sources say Professor Boulan was Dr. Surur's partner in a legal consultation office in the French capital. Dr. Surur has instructed the People's Assembly chief of protocol to escort his partner's body and offer condolences to his family.

The circumstances indicate that the defendant fired his gun at the law conference's phrasing committee. Dr. Surur and Boulan were consulting on its recommendations just before the incident. Dr. Surur thus miraculously escaped assassination. He probably left the place when the defendant headed for the rest room to prepare his gun.

Security reports say Dr. Surur was the assassination target because he chaired the People's Assembly when it endorsed the recent changes in the penal code; the changes meant tougher punishment for terrorist crimes.

Ahmad Darwish, foreign relations manager at the Semiramis Hotel, has denied knowing if Dr. Surur was at the scene. But he did say that the phrasing committee of the criminal law conference was holding consultations on Tuesday evening to announce recommendations on Wednesday.

Investigations by the general prosecutor's office are shrouded in strict secrecy. Answering our questions, Counselor 'Ali 'Imran, attorney general at the Central Cairo Prosecution, who supervises investigation, said the issue is very sensitive and the whole world is following the investigation. He said it has not been determined whether the defendant had any associates.

The General Prosecution inspected the scene last Thursday. The defendant repeated anti-American and anti-Western slogans over these countries' failure to support Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These were the same slogans he shouted before firing the shots that killed three and wounded four.

At a meeting with the defendant's sister, Wafa' Muhammad Farahat, she cried out: "What the papers publish about my brother and our family is all lies. He is not crazy; he is sane and he understands." Wafa's brother-in-law prevented her from saying anything further. He said: "This could be dangerous for us."

The defendant's father described his son as "sensible and not crazy. He is only hot tempered. The papers are publishing things that are untrue. We are concerned for the country's interests and would sacrifice our children for it," he said.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Thai Workers To Leave

LD0811143793 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1933 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Remarks by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during a discussion with students at Qar Yunis University on 7 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It is impossible that the Libyan people should pray to God to send them someone to rule over them. The Libyan people rule themselves by themselves. It is nonsense to say : Oh God, do not send us someone who oppresses us. We should rather say: Oh God, forgive our sins. [passage omitted]. When we face the oppressor we should say: God: Give us strength and make us strong so that we do not fail on the day of the assault.

Young men, you should meet within the popular congress setting. Failing that you should attend the popular congresses in your own communes. This is very very important. Tomorrow you may make a mistake; your neck could be cut off because you did not exercise your right. Tomorrow you may write a circular in which you say: Such and such is wrong. The prosecution man arrests you and sends you to prison for 10 years, for example. Afterward, you and your family cry. Why? Instead, you should attend the popular congress and say the things you wrote in the circular, come and convince

us. Attend. You ought to be the first to attend and the last to leave. If you have an idea, you should persuade people to agree to it. Convince all of us about that idea in your circular. Do not put it in a circular; say it to us. Convince us. Afterward, if we table a resolution, you will be satisfied, and we will have gained something that benefits us.

Someone comes along and betray the people's authority for example. They arrest him. Afterward he starts crying. And afterward they string him up and execute him. His family lives in misery and his end will be terrible because he is going to hell. He says: I have been thinking to do ...[changes thought]... Why does he want to usurp power? Why does he not come and state his idea at people's congresses so that the rest of the people can learn about it.

Today we live in the age of the masses. No one can impose [his will]. What you can do is to persuade people. So what you should do is to come along and put forward your idea. When they are convinced of it they adopt it. But to come and impose your idea. This is unreasonable. These days no one can accept that someone comes along and impose his idea. That era is gone. [passage omitted]

Those who want to turn the society into a communist system have also failed. It cannot be done. It can only be done when the entire community is persuaded. But to do this clandestinely and proclaim that there will communism tomorrow. No. To hell with communism. Who told you that we have not been convinced about it. Communism cannot succeed. [passage omitted]

It is not necessary what I suggest that must stand. If you do not agree with it, throw it out. [passage omitted]

I have just discovered that 10,000 Thais are working in Libya. Is this not a blasphemy? I would like to make a call from here—not a resolution, just a call. Libyans, you are facing a challenge. Thailand is a country in Asia. It was an English [as heard] colony. Thais guard Queen Elizabeth; a special guard of Thais—the Gurkhas [as heard]. [passage omitted]

When we signed a contract concerning the great man-made river with a Korean company—for pipes, excavation work, laying pipes—the Korean company brought in workers from Thailand because they are skilled and they come cheap. It brought in 5,000 workers for the great man-made river. The company started an experiment. The Thais trained some Libyans on how to dig a tunnel under the Tarhunah mountains. This was in case the great man-made river's course passed through Tarhunah. There was a possibility it might pass through there for about 50 km under the mountain.

They started talking and saying that they were digging tunnels for Libya under the mountain in Tarhunah and that it wanted to set up factories for poisonous gases to make chemical bombs. Hell was raised. They ignored al-Rabitah and started talking about Tarhunah. Subsequently, the Americans said to the Thais: You, Thailand [as heard], are helping Libya to manufacture chemical weapons. Your workers are digging tunnels in the mountains there. The Thai Government agreed to withdraw their workers from Libya.

What should the Libyan people's reaction be to that? We should not take a defensive position. We should take an offensive position. Alright, we can do without 10,000 Thai workers in one go. They can go to Thailand. Let them go and get fed by America. By God, it will not even give them a penny.

We need 10,000 Libyans to come forward. We need 5,000 for the great man-made river project, 1,500 in petroleum, and the remaining thousands in other places. Now, we need at least 5,000 Libyans to come forward. There will be advertisements which will be like a call for battle, for confrontation. Naturally, you [Libyans] will benefit from that; you will receive the salaries that were paid to the Thais.

Five thousand Libyans. If every Libyan has 10 people in his family, that would make 50,000 Libyan citizens living off the great man-made river. So far, the Thais are living off it.

That is it, we will apply pressure. How could you, Thais, take our secrets and write about us saying that we dig tunnels for [making] chemical bombs? Alright, get out of the country. Let America feed you. Let the problem be between Thailand and America.

Soon, an advertisement by the People's Committee for the Great Man-made River will appear. This advertisement will be about patriotism, challenge, and turning slogans into words [as heard]. Five thousand Libyans, who feel they are ready now or they are prepared to be trained to replace the Thais, must come forward. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Lockerbie, Peace Process

LD0711235293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 7 al-Harth [November] JANA—The French Television channel F3 has conducted an interview with the brother leader of the revolution, in which he spoke about a number of important issues. Here is the text of the interview:

Question: Lockerbie and the issue of the UTA [aircraft] are a real burden and a political problem, to which you and your country have become the victim. What are your plans to solve these issues and to normalize relations with the countries that do not wish to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya? What are your proposals to solve this problem as well?

Answer: I very much regret that we were implicated in an issue that has nothing to do with us at all, and my country has become a victim to an issue that has nothing to do with it. The issue has been moved to Libya for political reasons and the rights of the victims' relatives

during Bush's and Reagan's rule were lost because the victims' relatives did not benefit from turning it into a political issue. Had it remained a legal issue the relatives of the victims would have benefited from the compensation when the culprit is found, while turning it into a political issue, the relatives of the victims would lose their rights and would not benefit. Now, they are watching conflicts between governments and the settling of political accounts between Libya and the Western countries for racial and crusade reasons. We have exerted all our efforts to solve this problem, have been patient for a long time, and my country has paid a double price for the Lockerbie problem.

The crash of our plane with 157 passengers on board was equal to the Lockerbie tragedy, but the world did not talk about it, and it was due to the shortage of spare parts for Libyan planes. Technicians were not allowed to come to Libya in order to examine civilian planes before they fly and to test their flying capabilities. No expert has been allowed to come to examine our planes, no spare parts have been provided. Consequently, a plane crashed claiming 157 victims and this equals Lockerbie. Even if Libya was convicted, and if we applied the theory of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, I think Libya has already paid the price for Lockerbie, in addition to other successive losses [shouldered by Libya], given to the United Nations by Libyan quarters in charge of these losses. [sentence as received]

Question: What proposals can you make to the Western states to solve this problem, which has dragged on, because sometimes proposals are made in terms of a handover and at other times the idea of a handover is abandoned. Thus, the problem is dragging on.

Answer: World public opinion must understand that it was Libya that made several proposals. As for the Western states, they do not want a solution to this problem, but want to waste time extending the blockade on Libya and inflicting damage on the Libyan people. They do not want a solution and they practice a policy of arm-twisting and muscle-flexing and terrorize the Security Council. There is an Arab proverb that says "it is a goat even if it has flown away." This means that one person says to them, this is a bird and the other will say it is a goat, and after the bird has flown away, the stubborn person is still telling them it is a goat, even if it has flown away. Libya is innocent; they said no, it has been charged and then it was convicted. It is paying the price as if it had been convicted although it has not been yet been tried.

Some Western states insist on some formalities that contravene sovereignty, international law, and the Libyan law, while we are holding on to the essential, namely the need to try the two accused and our insistence that they be tried today and not tomorrow. We do not accept a waste of time because this procrastination will lead to further losses for Libya, it is paying a double price for a crime for which it had nothing to do with.

The solution is to agree to putting the two suspects on trial, and unless these states produce all the proof and factual evidence they have in their possession and hand them over to us—so that we can start their [as received] trial—we will start the trial and conduct the hearing of our two nationals and will refer them to the prosecution [ghurfat al-ittiham] who will then decide what these inquiries point to and whether to call for their referral to a court or not.

Libya wants a solution and rejects the procrastination by the Western states because it is procrastination aimed at extending the embargo, the blockade, and the losses on Libya. We have put forward numerous proposals with a view to solving this issue but the Western states do not want a solution, and practice a policy of arm-twisting, and stick to the formalities that contravene international law, Libyan law, and Libya's sovereignty. They also insist on holding the trial in a specific place. This is purely a formality. We hold on to the essential, namely the need to try the two suspects today and not tomorrow, because delaying it further, wasting time and extending the blockade from which we are suffering is not in Libya's interest. We insist on a fair trial, a trial that satisfies the two suspects and their lawyers and all sides. The formalities that the western states are sticking to concern the place of the trial.

Question: What do you expect from France to solve this problem? Somebody has said you have questions for the French Government.

Answer: France does not want to resolve the problem with Libya, and does not want to resolve the problem related to the UTA plane. It has evaded all Libyan solutions for the sake of allying itself ethnically and religiously with the Western group, Britain and America. It seems that France has sacrificed the resolution of its problem with Libya for ethnic, racial, and crusade reasons. It is a simple problem, it has tied its destiny with that of America and Britain. This is France's responsibility, and the French people and public opinion must know that France has evaded all solutions.

Question: It has been said that France has evaded a solution. Has Libya made a proposal, for instance, to surrender the suspects in the UTA plane accident to stand trial before French justice, and has France rejected it?

Answer: Unlike America and Britain, France does not demand a surrender, and the Security Council's resolution in connection with the UTA issue contained a special clause for that, which is: Libya and France must cooperate in the investigations in connection with these issues and listen to the evidence of Libyan witnesses or Libyan suspects. Libya welcomed a French judge, France evaded this, and the French judge did not come to Libya. We are prepared to have the French judge in Libya to listen to the witnesses and meet whoever he wants from among the suspects or witnesses. This is a very simple matter, i.e., it is an issue of investigating and examining some evidence. France refused to allow the French judge

to come to Libya, Tunisia, or Egypt, where the witnesses or any of the suspects could go to him, for the sake of listening to their evidence. In other words, the issue with France neither includes surrendering to France, nor a trial in France; otherwise a Niger issue would be raised, as the Lockerbie issue was raised. If there was a trial we could have it in Niger or France. If there was a trial request, similar to that of America and Britain, this would also mean that there would be a request in which Niger could also be involved in the case, but this does not exist in connection with the issue between Libya and France. I want the judge to come to Libya to investigate and study the evidence and witnesses, but France is evading this.

Question: As far as the French DC-10 plane is concerned, do you have any proposals or signals that you would like to send to French President Mitterrand or the French prime minister?

Answer: I have no message for Mitterrand or the prime minister. The solution would, however, be for the judge to come here and hear witnesses and look at the evidence. And this is what the Security Council has called for. France has not, however, been willing to send the judge and has been trying to avoid doing this. It has linked its fate to the fate of America and Britain for religious and racial reasons and has hindered resolving this separate problem; even the Security Council resolution has distinguished between the Pan Am and the UTA issues.

Question: The French examining magistrate, who is in charge of the investigation, wants to come to Tripoli to carry out an investigation, but he is saying that certain circumstances would prevent him from doing his job. What is the truth here?

Answer: What are these bad circumstances? This talk is categorically untrue. Let him come today or tomorrow; it is my responsibility.

Question: There have been certain reports in circulation, emanating from sources very close to you, that there is a readiness on the part of Libya to hand over those accused in the crash of the French DC-10 plane to French justice.

Answer: First, there is no request to hand over to France those who are accused in the crash of the French plane. What is requested is to facilitate the interrogation of witnesses and those who are accused in Libya; it is for the judge to come to Libya. Even the Security Council resolution has asserted so; it has distinguished between the UTA and the Lockerbie issues. In the Lockerbie case, the request to hand over those accused was made by the Western powers and not the Security Council, but in the UTA there was no request to hand over anyone; there was only a request to carry out an investigation. We welcome such an investigation and we are ready for it. However, it is France that has not been willing to carry out the investigation or to send the judge. I would not like to say here that the French Government is responsible for this. It might well be that it is the judge who does not want to carry out the investigation. This matter should at least be clear before French public opinion.

Question: Therefore, we have reached a point of no return; there is nothing new, and there are no fresh proposals. Is Libya willing to accept the new Security Council resolution on an embargo as it is?

Answer: As long as the Security Council is under American and British control it is no longer a security council; it is merely one of the tools used by such powers. Hence, it is free to issue whatever resolutions it wants. Libya is committed to international law and to human rights; it will not force any citizen to travel abroad. It is committed to exercising its sovereign rights and its own laws. It announces here that she would like to see the trial of those accused; they are free to go to any agreed place. She would not mind if the accused went to any country of their choice, including those countries that have been against them. But she will not, however, force them to do so; it is the others who do not want a solution. And this is all that can be said about this matter.

Question: Let us move to another subject; it concerns the peace process in the Middle East. Are you optimistic over the peace process in the region following the signing of the peace agreement between the Palestinians and Israel?

Answer: The talks, which were attended by the whole world, i.e. the Arab Maghreb and the Arab Gulf, and which Arabs and the whole world sponsored, and have been looking forward to their outcome, were the Madrid Talks. However, secret bilateral talks on the sidelines like those are only pursued by gangs, not by states. States do not conduct their talks in secret, on the sidelines, or in darkness; we do not recognize secret bilateral talks on the sidelines. We recognize international negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, which are sponsored by the big powers and attended by the whole world, we are still waiting for such talks to take place. Nevertheless, no peace would ever exist without the return of the Palestinian people, who number 7 million, to Palestine, and without disarming the so-called Israel from its offensive weapons, particularly weapons of total destruction, which are elements of danger, and particularly the nuclear missiles with a range of 4,000 miles. It [Israel] has hundreds of them. They have been pointed at Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, the Arab Peninsula, and Sudan.

We are under nuclear threat and we cannot recognize a country that is a belligerent one, and which has nuclear weapons. The West has been trying to eliminate the Muslim people in Bosnia- Herzegovina. The time of Albania and Macedonia will come because Europe wants to remain Christian and would not accept an Islamic state in it despite the fact that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina are Europeans; Albanians are also European.

Therefore, we can also say that we do not want the state of Israel inside the Arab homeland, and we do not accept a Jewish state inside the Arab homeland, a matter that is

not in the interests, in general, of the Jewish people. I do care here about the interests of the Jews and the Arabs alike. What is taking place now is not in the interests of the Jews because it will prolong the war against them—the war that is being fought by the Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian people, who want to go back to their homeland.

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are full of refugees, who arrived there from the Palestinian coastal towns of Acre, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jaffa; those people want to go back to their homes. Moreover, there are some 4 million dispersed Palestinians, living outside Palestine, who must go back to their homes. I know the solution to the Palestinian problem: The Palestinian people should go back to their land.

Furthermore, Arabs will not recognize Israel until it is disarmed, particularly from the weapons of mass destruction. Any other solution will not be in the interests of either Jews or Arabs; both Arabs and Jews will be faced with an eternal war, carried out by the dispersed Palestinian people.

Question: As far as joining the peace process in the next few days is concerned, do you intend to do the same thing? [sentence as received]

Answer: We and Syria are both under the Israeli nuclear threat, we cannot accept such an entity [Israel] until it's weapons of mass destruction are disarmed, particularly the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and until the Palestinian people are allowed to return to their land.

However, I do not think that there is someone out there who would accept a peace that is not wanted or accepted by the Arab people. Although rulers have signed the peace treaty, the Arab people will one day tear up what the rulers have signed. This is not in Jewish interests; their fate is being jeopardized by the behavior of their Zionist leadership and by trumped up solutions.

Lockerbie Suspects To Surrender to Switzerland

NC0711144693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Nov (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Ghawil, the coordinator of the defense team for the two Libyan citizens suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie case, has announced that these two citizens have agreed to turn themselves over to Switzerland.

In a statement to MENA, al-Ghawil said that on 27 October he informed the Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison of his two clients' decision and asked him to contact the Swiss charge d'affaires in Tripoli and ask him to convey this information to his government.

Al-Ghawil voiced "confidence in Switzerland because of its commitment to human rights, its fundamental rules of assuming innocence until proven guilty, and trial by a fair and honest jury."

Al-Ghawil added that Professor Stefan Trakschel [name as received], member of the two suspects' defense team and a well-known Swiss lawyer, has submitted to the concerned Swiss authorities a memorandum pertaining to the Swiss judiciary's jurisdiction in holding such a trial. Al-Ghawil said that the Libyan delegation to the United Nations has been informed of the message sent to the Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison. [passage indistinct]

JANA Editor Cited on Butrus-Ghali Mission

LD0611210093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has announced the failure of the mission entrusted to him by the Security Council regarding the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western powers. This was stated by him in THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Jamahiriyah News Agency political affairs editor, commenting on this, says: The UN secretary general's statements were not meant as a condemnation of the Great Jamahiriyah. They only meant that the issue of lifting the mandatory sanctions against it, which was really the core of his mission, has failed. His real mission, however, was not to impose sanctions.

Those statements affirmed, furthermore, that Western powers were the cause for the UN secretary general's failure because they did not cooperate in finding a solution which would suit all parties, nor did they extend any help to him in order to make his mission on this matter successful.

America and Britain do not want to reach a solution to the crisis. France also does not want to find a solution to its problem with Libya. They have rejected the cooperation required from Libya by the Security Council to resolve this problem.

The editor adds: The aforementioned countries, instead of searching for a solution which would meet the stipulations of the Montreal Convention, insisted on some formal matters, like the designation of a venue for the trial [as received].

Hence, we have come to the conclusion that they do not want a solution. Rather, the three Western countries are the cause for the secretary general's failure. A failure which has also been caused by the invention of a new procedure in international relations, the procedure of imposing sanctions which can be tightened in stages. It has become apparent, however, that such a procedure will not resolve the problem.

JANA Editor Scores U.S. on CW Allegations

LD0511183793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Nov—The Voice of America Radio in its commentary which reflects the U.S. Government's

views raised [the issue of] what it called Libya's program for the production of chemical weapons.

JANA's political editor made some remarks on this, saying that the Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly affirmed that it has not included in its plans a program for the production of chemical weapons and that its efforts are basically directed toward economic and social development programs.

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah has always called for an international agreement to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world for the sake of saving human existence.

The political editor added that reiterating this allegation is part of the hostile campaigns of the U.S. media organs against the Libyan people aimed at discrediting the reputation of the Great Jamahiriyah before world public opinion.

He said that the continuation of these media campaigns reminds us of the hostile campaigns that preceded the treacherous aggression against the Libyan people and its historic leadership in 1986.

Referring to what the Americans have been alleging regarding the participation of Thai workers in the chemical industry, JANA's political editor said that Libya has no relationship with those workers. The latter's relations are with the company which is implementing the phases of the great man-made river. The political editor expressed his regret at the continuation of the American media in reiterating that the al-Rabitah plant is the largest establishment for the chemical industry. He said that the world has become sure through the visits to the plant by official and press delegations that the plant is for manufacturing medicines.

The editor referred to what the American media have been reiterating regarding the Lockerbie issue, and he said that the intransigence of the United States is what has obstructed the international community from reaching a peaceful and just solution to the Lockerbie issue by rejecting and ignoring all appeals and proposals of the international organizations, led by the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Al-Bishari Carries al-Qadhdhafi Message to Syria

NC0611192393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, Ibrahim al-Bishari, left Cairo for Damascus this evening on a two-day visit to Syria. While there, al-Bishari will deliver a written message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from Libyan Revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In a predeparture statement, al-Bishari said the message deals with the general Arab situation amid the current world changes, which make it incumbent on us to seek ways to protect Arab interests.

On Libya's crisis with the West, al-Bishari said that Libya has done, and still is doing, its utmost to seek an honorable and peaceful solution that is acceptable to all the parties concerned, including the three major states, the United States, France, and Britain.

VOA Call for End to Arab Boycott Ridiculed

LD0711173993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 93

[text] A Voice of America commentary expressed the view of the American Government that the Arab boycott of what it called Israel was one of the obsolete remnants of the past and must be immediately consigned to history.

The Arab Affairs editor commented on this, saying: As much as this logic arouses amazement, it also proves that the person who uses it must be suffering from schizophrenia. If the Arab boycott of their enemy, who is still occupying their land and killing and making homeless their children using all kinds of barbaric means, is accounted as one of the obsolete remnants of the past, what can we call the method of threatening aggression, boycotting and starving whole peoples, interference in their internal affairs, and attempts to take away their will and independence?

The editor added: If the Arab boycott of an enemy, who every day confirms in practice its disregard for UN resolutions and its contempt for the will of the international community, must be immediately consigned to history, what should we do with the policy of threats and blockades that the Western states are pursuing against the Great Jamahiriyah, which is defending itself in a civilized manner? In so doing, the Jamahiriyah has received the support of the whole international community against an organized act of injustice, which itself is built on a pretext that has become one of the remnants of the past and must immediately be consigned to history.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Niger

LD0711221693 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 7, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Minutes for an accord of cooperation between the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the National Assembly of Niger were signed last night.

The minutes were signed by the assistant secretary of women's affairs to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and Moumouni Adem Djoumakwi, the president of the National Assembly of Niger.

The delegation of Niger expressed the solidarity and support of the people of Niger for Great Jamahiryah in the coercive measures and arbitrary imperialist onslaught to which she being subjected by the West.

The delegation commended the judicious policy of the Great Jamahiryah towards finding a solution to the crisis between herself and West through negotiations and dialogue based on international law and conventions and the principles of the U.N. Charter. The stressed that the negative effects of the coercive measures affected Niger and all neighbouring countries to the Great Jamahiryah.

The delegation condemned the use of pressure embargo and threats as means to settle disputes between states. They called for the lifting of the coercive measures against the Great Jamahiryah.

The delegation lauded the colossal civilisational achievements accomplish by the Great Jamahiryah thanks to the great al Fatih revolution. They stressed the need for Niger to benefiting from the people's power applied in the Great Jamahiryah.

The delegation expressed their thanks and congratulations to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the great victories scored political and economic levees in conformity with the third universal theory.

They reasserted the desire of Niger to consolidate and develop political, ideological, economic, cultural and social relations with the Great Jamahiryah.

The minutes of the accord include the formation of a joint committee of friendship between the General People's Congress and the National Assembly of Niger for developing and enhancing bilateral ties in all fields and coordination between them at international fora on issues of common interest.

Also the minutes provide for the formation of an international popular front from smaller nations in defence of the interest of peoples and their independence and freedom. The minutes provides for information exchange between the two sides to make known the political, economic and social changes taking place in the two countries.

The minutes include the consolidation of bilateral relations between the professional unions, syndicates and associations and to laying down cultural and educational programmes between the institutions of the Great Jamahiryah and the Republic of Niger, exchanging of visits of experts and technicians and organising symposia between intellectuals.

The minutes provide for the unification of efforts in the fields of culture and education, preparation of economic and investment programmes and trade exchange in a manner which may accomplish the joint objectives and programmes between the Great Jamahiryah and the Republic of Niger.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on PTA Summit, Rebel Negotiations

EA0711194593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)—The president of the republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has said that the PTA [Preferential Trade Area] is a common market and that [words indistinct] have been signed during the meetings by means of which 22 markets will become one market with unrestricted movement. On his return to the country today following his participation in the PTA summit held in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, His Excellency described the measures as major advantages whch would help in encouraging investors to enter a bigger market of over 200 million people, indicating that this will create a competitive atmosphere.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed the need for groupings by the countries of the continent and the establishment [word indistinct] and other regions as this was in harmony with what was going on in the world. He pointed out that donors had neglected the continent and this had necessitated concerted efforts for the setting up of trading regions to form strong economic powers.

Regarding the arrival of the two rebel factions in Kampala, the president of the republic said that this must be regarded as the start of the work of the four IGADD countries group and the summit was aware of the government's point of view about the subject of peace. He referred to a meeting between the group and the rebel leadership. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that a ministerial quadripartite committee had been set up from four [IGADD] states and charged with making contact with the Sudanese Government and the rebel leaders for the drawing up of an agenda for the next meeting, after referring to the documents of previous meetings of Abuja-2 and Nairobi to acquaint itself with the outcome of these meetings.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that the war in southern Sudan represented a major obstacle for the flow of trade between the PTA countries. He pointed out that economic development in Africa could not be achieved without the restoration of a comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Official Denies PTA-Rebel Contacts

EA0711193593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1629 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)—The minister of the Federal Government Chamber and spokesman of the government in the peace talks, Dr. Ali al-Hajj, has denied that there were talks or contacts between [the] government delegation and rebel movement factions in the meetings of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] summit which was held lately in Kampala, Capital of Uganda. [sentence as received]

Al-Hajj said in a press statement at Khartoum airport that the four IGADD countries which led an initiative to restore peace in southern Sudan met General 'Umar al-Bashir who reaffirmed confidence in the region's states for solving their problems without external interferences, one of which is the late Washington symposium which complicated [the] government's peaceful endeavours. Explaining Sudan's rejection of intereference in countries affairs on the ground of its fixed principles, he added that the leaders of IGADD met leaders of rebel movement factions to know their views to hold a meeting between the two sides to reach to a comprehensive and a just solution.

Heavy Fighting Reported in South

AB0511221193 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Kampala, Nov 5 (AFP)—Heavy fighting is continuing in the Morobo, Dudulabe and Yondu areas of southern Sudan, refugee sources said here on Friday [5 November].

The sources said fighting has been raging around these areas for the past week, with the biggest battle waged around Morobo last weekend, when government troops launched a fullscale offensive against dug-in Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces in the area.

The exact number of casualities on both sides could not be established, although the number of injured from John Garang's mainstream SPLA faction indicated that the toll is very heavy.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) source here told AFP that 16 wounded SPLA fighters, with bullet wounds all over their bodies, some with shattered limbs and a number with bullets lodged in their bodies, were dumped on the Ugandan side of the border last Tuesday.

They were rushed to Maracha Hospital in the northwestern Arua district for first aid treatment and will thereafter be airlifted on Sunday to an ICRC-run refugee hospital in the Kenyan northwestern town of Lokichoggio.

Another 13 wounded SPLA fighters were flown to Lokichoggio last Sunday.

The sources have said that Sudanese government troops have been pounding SPLA positions with mortars and other artillery for the past two weeks.

Last weekend Sudanese troops fell into an ambush laid by the rebels, who had dug themselves into deep trenches from where they successfully survived the bombardment, and thereafter attacked a convoy of advancing government troops, killing at least 30 of them.

The ambush was followed by heavy battles between the rebels and government troops in which an unknown number of rebels were killed, the sources added.

Official Outlines Stance on Terrorism

EA0511192793 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Nov (SUNA)—Sudan has proposed setting up a working team to make preliminary preparations for the convening of an international conference to define terrorism, find the means for its elimination, define its causes [words indistinct] and the necessary measures to eliminate this phenomenon [words indistinct] or a universal international treaty.

Mr. Siraj al-Din Hamid Yusuf, adviser to the Sudanese mission at the United Nations, spoke recently about methods for eliminating international terrorism in a statement he delivered before the Sixth Legal Affairs Committee of the UN. He said that Sudan reiterated its condemnation of all forms of terrorism as criminal actions which target innocent people and their property. Terrorism also violates state sovereignty and territorial security, as well as threatening international security and peace.

The newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported in today's issue that Siraj al-Din Hamid noted Sudan's adherence and commitment to those obligations imposed by international law. Sudan does not organize terrorist acts in other states, nor does it incite or assist in such acts. He said that Sudan had not and would not allow its territory to be used for the planning or carrying out of terrorist operations. He confirmed that Sudan welcomed the UN General Assembly's resolution providing for the establishment of international cooperation to combat terrorism, within the scope of international law and on the basis of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the declaration of the principles of international law relating to relations between states. Siraj al-Din Hamid said that for one state to name another as a terrorist state, without any evidence, leads to the isolation of that state and the distortion of its reputation. He said that this must be considered a form of media or ideological terrorism and must be shunned.

He added that if any state or organization undertakes the nurturing of secessionist movements or political movements that take up arms against a legitimate authority in another country, regardless of whether such support is (?material) or moral, this must be considered a (?terrorist) act [words indistinct] likely to lead to the political or economic destabilization of large numbers of people. Siraj al-Din said that all forms and types of terrorism must be treated as clearly defined criminal acts. Others should not be exploited or harassed, as has been the case with regard to accusations against some states of human rights violations.

Oman Disapproves of Terrorist Listing for Sudan

EA0711212693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1636 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)— Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Muhammad al-Amin

Khalifah, Sunday [7 November] received a message from his counterpart of Oman Sultanate, Abdullah Bin Ali, in response to the message sent to him by Khalifah on the American decision placing the Sudan on the [list of] so-called terrorist states. The message has been conveyed to Khalifah by the Omani ambassador to Sudan.

It reflected Oman's full understanding of Sudan's position and expressed confidence that the Sudan is capable of refuting such allegations. The message expressed deploration [as received] towards the decision and described it as lacking evidence. It also said that Oman Sultanate would spare no effort to explain the matter.

Iraq Said To Denounce U.S. Action

EA0711221593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1639 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah Sunday [7 November] received a message from his Iraqi counterpart Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih, in response to a message Khalifah sent to Salih to explain [the] dimensions of the U.S. decision on placement of Sudan on the list of the states alleged to be sponsoring terrorism.

Salih said in the message, which was conveyed to Khalifah by the Iraqi charge d'affaires, that the decision was a part of the conspiracies that have been plotted against the Arab countries that reject to be a target of the American policies.

Salih affirmed that the real victory would come in the progress of political, scientific and cultural construction. He expressed confidence that the Sudanese people are capable of foiling conspiracies by means of their national solidarity and deep historical experience of positive co-existence, which will enable the Sudan to attain [the] best democratic formulas that express its political, ethnic and cultural identity.

The message assured the importance of continuing coordination between the official and parliamentarian bodies in the two countries in the face of the current challenge.

Foreign Minister Discusses Maghreb, Gulf State Relations

EA0711212093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)—Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, stressed Sudan's wish to resolve its misunderstandings with some states, particularly Algeria and Tunisia, and to restore normal relations with the Gulf states. He said the government was proceeding towards creating sound relations between Sudan and the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He told the London-based AL-HAYAT that the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] was effected to remove the military stamp from the system and was done in accordance with the program participated in by the masses to give them genuine participation in the system.

[Words indistinct] to the Sultanate of Oman was paid at the invitation of his Omani counterpart, Yusuf bin Alawi. Its aim had been to develop and deepen the relations between the two states, which were linked by arabism, Islam and consultations on joint action.

Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih referred in his statement to the differences between Sudan and Egypt saying they (?were complicated). He said the meeting between the Sudanese and Egyptian presidents and his meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, had laid the foundation for talks on all the issues, including the problem of Hala'ib, and created an atmosphere conducive to the restoration of not only good but excellent relations between Sudan and Egypt. The strategic objective was certainly the resolution of differences and the return to the special relationship between the two countries.

Minister Conveys Message to Syria, Discusses Ties

EA0711213093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1634 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently received a message from the president of the republic General 'Umar al-Bashir dealing with the recent constitutional developments and the means to boost the relations between the two countries.

Brigadier Salah al-Din Karrar, minister of energy and mining, who conveyed the message said that he reviewed during his visit to Syria the aspects of the technical cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of petroleum and minerals.

Three More Detained Egyptians Released

NC0811060493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2244 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese authorities released tonight three Egyptians who have been detained in Sudanese prisons since 24 June.

The Sudanese authorities have not released a fourth Egyptian who was the manager of the Midi Trade Company in Sudan.

The three released Egyptians are due to return to Cairo aboard the Egypt Air plane that will arrive from Khartoum before noon, tomorrow, Monday.

You will recall that the Sudanese security authorities arrested 20 Egyptians working for various Egyptian companies and establishments in Sudan on 24 and 26 June 1993 and have released them at intervals since 5 July. The Sudanese authorities did not, however, interrogate or charge any of the detainees.

Kuwait

Cabinet Briefed on Reported Iraqi Incursion

LD0711212593 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The cabinet held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

The cabinet then heard a report from Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahmud al-Jabir al-Sabah on the attempt by a number of uniformed Iraqi soldiers to infiltrate the Kuwaiti borders in order to kidnap and detain a group of workers on the security trench project inside Kuwaiti territory as they were carrying out their routine work accompanied by UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] representatives.

The cabinet also reviewed the steps taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform the United Nations about this aggressive act, on the basis of which the Security Council decided that the president of the council should summon the permanent Iraqi delegate to inform him of the council's discontent and concern at the latest Iraqi violations of Kuwait's borders, which are a serious development threatening security and stability in the region.

The cabinet stressed that this aggressive act reflected the Iraqi regime's persistence in ignoring international resolutions despite repeated Security Council warnings and the continuation of the regime's policies, which will only result in more suffering for the Iraqi people and endanger peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Iran Releases Detained Fishermen

LD0611204293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1921 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 6 Nov—An official security source in the Ministry of Interior today confirmed that 10 Kuwaiti fishermen had been released after intensive contacts between the Kuwaiti and Iranian authorities, who had arrived at an understanding over the circumstances of their detention.

In a statement to KUNA, the source said that the fishermen returned to the country this evening with two of their three boats and are in good health.

He indicated that the fishermen had been on a sea trip outside Kuwaiti territorial waters and were detained by the Iranian authorities in the middle of last month. [passage omitted]

The fishermen had been due to return to the country two days ago, but the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, Nasir al-Mutairi, had informed KUNA that their arrival would be delayed because of the weather conditions prevailing during the last two days.

The source expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Iranian authorities for their understanding of the circumstances of the incident and their release of the fishermen. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Developments in 'Political Crisis' Detailed

House Speaker: YSP 'Sparked' Crisis

PM0511121193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p6

[Interview with Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker 'Abdallah al-Ahmar by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khayrallah] How would you describe the current political crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] It is indeed a crisis. It has reached a high degree (of escalation) sparked by the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP]. The other party played no part in that escalation except perhaps through some newspapers and as a reaction. At the beginning there was nothing to justify this crisis at all, but now that they have ignited, escalated, and magnified it, with the local and foreign media contributing to its exaggeration, it is now indeed a crisis. [passage omitted]

[Khayrallah] What does the YSP want?

[Al-Ahmar] That is what really puzzles us. What does it want? There is currently no dispute over issues between the YSP and the General People's Congress [GPC] and if there was a dispute over any issue, we in the Reform [Grouping] could act as a reconciliatory factor. Time will prove that, regarding the differences that have occurred, we have made quiet efforts without saying anything in the press or other media that would exacerbate the situation.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that intensification of the crisis would endanger Yemeni unity?

[Al-Ahmar] What I and others say is that unity is not the exclusive right of 'Ali Salih or 'Ali Salim, although we all acknowledge that they were the ones who achieved it. It is the trust of the Yemeni people in the north, south, east, and west. It does not exclusively belong to anyone, and therefore there should be no bargaining over it. It is a historic achievement for the Yemeni people and cannot be forfeited.

[Khayrallah] But [YSP Secretary General and Vice President] 'Ali Salim al-Bid stresses that what happened in practice was that the mechanism of the [former] Yemeni Arab Republic was imposed on the unity state despite the fact that there was an understanding that there would be a new government mechanism. His criticism is mainly focused on that mechanism controlled by Sanaa in a very centralized manner. What is your view?

[Al-Ahmar] The legitimate and natural thing to do is to tackle all issues in accordance with the current constitution which they introduced and insisted upon more than we did, until the time when that constitution is amended. Certain things can be changed through the introduction of amendments, but what is taking place now is an implementation of the constitution.

[Khayrallah] But al-Bid's objection is not to the constitution but to what he calls the prevailing mentality.

[Al-Ahmar] 'Ali Salim says that the constitution is the law of laws and cannot be violated but in practice he contravenes that. That natural thing is to adhere to the current recognized constitution, which has been in force since the beginning of unity, until it is amended and until a new formula emerges tackling what they and others want tackled and serving the people's interests.

[Khayrallah] In your view, is there any room for finding a way out of the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] Nothing is impossible and there is no despair. There must be a way out. The first way out is that 'Ali Salim, who was elected as Presidential Council member after being a willing candidate and who even thanked the Council in a message sent to me but then declined to attend the swearing in ceremony and then promised to come, [should keep this promise]. Before the assassination of his nephew we sent him a message from the council and I contacted him personally and asked him to attend the new council's first session (which was held Monday) but then you know what happened. I believe that a solution should begin with him coming here to become legitimate [be sworn in] because no Presidential Council or cabinet member can do anything before taking the oath. So we await him.

[Khayrallah] As you have mentioned the regrettable incident which occurred in Aden ...

[Al-Ahmar] It was indeed a regrettable incident, and it occurred at a serious juncture and in difficult times and it might be exploited by those who are out to exploit such incidents. What is certain is that whoever perpetrated the assassination meant to foment sedition and escalate the crisis.

[Khyarallah] Do you believe that the House of Representatives did its duty. Do you not believe that it should have remained in session to keep pace with the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] The House of Representatives will now reconvene. The purpose of the two-week recess was to give 'Ali Salim a chance.

[Khayrallah] Considering your contacts with the YSP, especially after the elections and your becoming partners in the coalition, have your relations with it as a party developed?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, in terms of relations between the Reform Grouping and the YSP there has been a major change.

[Khayrallah] In what direction?

[Al-Ahmar] In all directions. There is understanding, cooperation, and joint meetings. That is why we joined the government. We believe in cooperation with the YSP. So far, our relations with the YSP are realistic, cordial, and responsible. [passage omitted]

[Khayrallah] Do you intend to launch a new initiative to resolve the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] I personally, the House of Representatives, and the Reform Grouping are perfectly willing. Our initiative continues and has not stopped, and the aim is to contain and settle the crisis.

[Khayrallah] You told AL-HAYAH a few days ago that, in the final analysis, it is a crisis of trust.

[Al-Ahmar] That is at the heart of the matter. There is a crisis of trust between 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim, between the YSP, which ruled the southern and eastern governorates before the unity, and the government, which ruled the north, especially 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. There is a crisis of trust. It is the main problem.

[Khayrallah] What is the way out of the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] The way is that issues and matters should be discussed frankly and sincerely, without lies and without beating about the bush. All issues or disputes should be addressed in a clear manner that can be understood by the people and by all forces, and the views of all wise men should be taken into consideration. There should be no improvisation. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid 'Confident' of Solution

JN0511190993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has explained that the party welcomes discussions on any proposals to resolve the people's national issues and to make it possible to take tangible, practical steps that will foster hope for terminating the crisis and the series of troubles and fallacies that have nothing to do with dialogue and politics.

In an interview with the local Hadramawt radio yesterday, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid affirmed that dialogue means raising issues in order to arrive at a joint understanding leading to practical steps. He urged the masses of the people in all governorates to collectively say yes to the state of law and order and no to chaos and terrorism. He said: God willing, there must be a solution. I am confident that there is a solution to every problem, and that all good, honorable people in Yemen will attain their goals, God willing.

The brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council explained that investigations are under way to uncover the perpetrators of treacherous attempt on the lives of his two sons Nayif and Yanuf, in which his sister's son,

Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid, was martyred. He said the security organizations are continuing their investigations in this regard.

He added that the only fear for the safety of the unity comes from continuous chaos. He stressed that anyone concerned about the unity should do his best to built its state and tackle people's problems.

Referring to the continuous increase in food prices and tampering with people's livelihoods, he explained that the deterioration of the national currency, which has become a commodity controlled by a small group of people, and the current misconduct in a number of financial departments are the main cause for that. In this regard, he affirmed that had a sufficient effort been exerted, had the government been left to work and execute its known policies, had everyone adhered to these policies, and had an end been put to smuggling and smugglers, this would have resulted in boosting security, stability, people's living conditions, and the building of the state in general.

'Ali Salim al-Bid emphasized that there must be sound oil and mineral resources policies so they can be used in the service of the people and the country. He noted that security, stability, setting up competent organizations, and commitment to developmental plans are issues of primary importance to the people and national construction. Then, he said, it can be said that the wealth is being soundly administered. All these issues, he said, are linked to the establishment of the state and the mechanism of the new course. He said: We are committed to that, irrespective of the difficulties.

House Statement on 'Crisis'

JN0611080993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Nov 93

["Statement" issued by the Yemeni House of Representative after a four-session debate of the political "crisis" on 5 November—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God who says: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace, you became brethren. [Koranic verse]

God's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his family, and companions. The difficulties and abnormal atmosphere our country is experiencing have paralyzed the state institutions and agencies and created a state of apprehension on the part of the people. These developments drove the House of Representatives to devote several sessions to discussing the current crisis and its causes and to look for ways to spare the country the negative repercussions which could result from it. This is in line with the responsibility and mission of the House of Representatives, the representative of this people. It is also a practice of the House of Representatives' authorities and constitutional powers and is done out of the House of Representatives' concern about the people's interests, freedoms, security, and stability. The House of Representatives also wants to safeguard the democratic option embraced by everyone.

While observing the developments of the political crisis and its negative effects on the country—a crisis resulting from the circumstances that prevailed before 27 April 1993, which affected the current situation, and were accompanied by escalation, making the atmosphere tense, not having recourse to the voice of justice and not giving precedence to higher national interests—the House of Representatives affirms to the people and all its political forces that it is concerned about the crisis, since it has powers of legislation and control in the country.

The sons of Yemen have succeeded in fulfilling their great dream of restoring the blessed unity on 22 May 1990 and restoring cohesion among the unified sons of the Yemeni people. They did their utmost to overcome the negative effects of the past era of divisions. The circumstances of the transitional period, however, have obstructed overcoming these negative effects. In fact, another pile of problems and negative phenomena has been added to those negative effects, thus creating huge obstacles to the development drive sought by our people.

It was hoped that the elections on 27 April 1993 will usher in a new era during which the country will overcome all negative phenomena, enabling the development drive to achieve progress, especially after everybody accepted the results of the elections. The elections crowned the victory of unity, established a basis for a consultative, democratic system, and yielded a new political reality that won the respect and appreciation of brothers and friends. This system is indeed a basis for the modern Yemeni democratic drive. However, the current political crisis has cast heavy shadows on the bright picture of our country in the wake of the elections. This makes it imperative for the House of Representatives to carry out its role by examining the root causes of this crisis and doing its utmost to be able, along with all Yemenis, to overcome its negative effects, with God's assistance. This way, everyone will be able to work hand in hand to paint a bright picture of a modern, successful Yemen in light of the following constant principles:

1. Islam as a religion and law.

2. Yemeni unity and national unity.

3. Consultative democracy, political and party pluralism, and peaceful transfer of power.

4. Security, stability, justice, equality, respect for rights and freedoms, and protecting lives, property, and honor.

5. Respect for constitutional legitimacy and its institutions and commitment of state institutions to their constitutional powers.

6. Serious, sincere dialogue as a means to settle disputes of any kind and magnitude.

7. The Armed Forces and security agencies represent a national institution for the people. Their mission is to safeguard the country and protect its unity, sovereignty, national achievements, and constitutional legitimacy, away from political conflicts and partisanship.

The House of Representatives asserts that the aforementioned constant principles cannot be disputed and are not to be infringed upon by any party, directly or indirectly.

The House of Representatives has been following the developments of the crisis. It has experienced some of its aspects, tried to contain it, and has dealt with it out of its high spirit of responsibility, out of its concern about Yemen's interests, and to safeguard Yemeni unity and stability. Thus, the House of Representatives approved extending the term of the Presidential Council so there could be a chance to complete constitutional amendments, endorse the principle of amendment, and elect a Presidential Council last month.

All this was done out of the House of Representatives' concern to spare the country any divisions and fragmentation and nip in the bud the attempts of those who harbor evil toward this country.

Despite all of this, the crisis has persisted. This prompted the House of Representatives to debate the issue, in line with its constitutional powers.

Following a lengthy debate by the deputies of the people and the conclusions reached from the overall views of the members, the House of Representatives has decided the following:

1. General Principles:

A. Safeguarding constants, deeming any infringement on them an act of high treason punishable according to the Constitution.

B. Settling all disputed issues by serious dialogue through constitutional institutions, not resorting to force and use of violence in any form, and rejecting terrorism in all its aspects.

C. The protection of unity, maintaining security and stability in the country, and establishing a state of institutions and law is a task to be performed by all the sons of Yemen.

D. No crisis should be allowed to obstruct the activity of the state institutions or agencies or prevent the government from carrying out its program. The Presidential Council should encourage the government and cooperate with it to carry out its programs and overcome any difficulties it might face. The government is held accountable by the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives.

2. Guidelines: The House of Representatives has approved the following guidelines:

A. Asking the government to order the competent sides to stop media vituperations and regional and sectarian incitement. Senior state officials should refrain from press statements and speeches that escalate the crisis.

B. Asking the government to remove any manifestations of tension and remove the makeshift military points and not introduce any new military procedures.

C. Asking the government to promptly order the competent agencies to bring the persons accused of assassination attempts, explosions, and disrupting security to a public trial and hunting down those on the run to bring them to justice.

D. The House of Representatives affirms that the government should carry out its duties, assume its constitutional powers, and carry out the program submitted to win the confidence of the House of Representatives. The government should also submit a detailed report to the House of Representatives about what was achieved, especially regarding urgent matters that have to do with the citizens' security and livelihood. The report should also show what was not achieved and the reasons for not achieving it, so the House of Representatives can make the appropriate decisions.

E. The House of Representatives has approved the formation of a committee from its members to observe and find facts regarding the crisis, the military situation, and the security incidents, primarily the assassination of Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid, and submit an urgent report to the House of Representatives.

F. The House of Representatives has decided to summon the government to appear before the House within a week to inform the House of all aspects of the crisis. The House will remain in session until the crisis is over. While declaring this, the House appeals to all sons of the people, in its various political forms, to assist it in carrying out its duty and to protect unity and prevent the attempts of those who want to sow discord between the unified son of the Yemeni people. Everyone should help create an atmosphere of amity and love in the country and shun everything that creates discord and conflict.

And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart. [Koranic verse] God grant us success. God's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his family, and companions.

House Studies Crisis Report

JN0711195893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Meeting this morning under Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives looked at the minutes of the first session of the committee the House set up to probe the current political crisis. The committee reports that it drafted a two-tier

plan of action. The first stage of the plan calls for removing military checkpoints and putting an end to mud slinging in the local official, unofficial, party, and foreign Arab press. Arrangements to implement the plan should be worked out with the brother prime minister and the ministers of interior, defense, and information, and at meetings among the chief of staff and the committee and the House. Also, messages are to be sent to the brother chairman and vice chairman and members of the Presidential Council to promote a halt to press statements and help the government implement the House's resolutions and whatever agreements are worked out between the House committee and representatives of the government.

The second phase of the action plan calls for meetings with the Presidential Council's chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the Council's vice chairman, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, as well as the Council's members. They will examine the underlying causes of the crisis, and the committee will sound them out on ways to address its root causes.

Council members applauded the committee's work as a serious and good step toward resolving the issue once and for all and steering the homeland's ship to safety. The people's deputies noted the need for the brother speaker or one of his deputies to sit in on the meetings of the crisis follow up and fact-finding committee to help it fulfill its mission; namely to remove the causes of the crisis, rebuild the bridges of confidence, fortify the foundations of the united state, and attend to the country's social and economic development. [passage omitted]

YSP Political Bureau Meets

PM0811102893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

['Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah report: "Socialist Party Discusses President's Refusal To Withdraw Yemeni Forces From Capital; Republican Guards Have Been Removed From Around al-Bid's Residence"]

[Excerpts] London, Aden, Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The extraordinary meeting of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau continued for the second successive day yesterday—an indication of the diversity and importance of the issues it is discussing. This is in addition to the fact that holding the meeting in Aden, in the house of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the YSP, reflects a united position the party has not experienced since before the union between the two parts of Yemen on 22 May 1990. [passage omitted]

While political circles in Sanaa expressed their hope that the Political Bureau's meeting would result in a "return to reason, a call for an extraordinary Central Committee meeting in Aden next week, and the postponement of the party's fourth congress until a later date," the same circles felt that the removal of 150 Republican Guard soldiers from around the hospitality house in the Ma'ashiq area in Aden, near al-Bid's house, and their transfer to the Presidential Council premises there, was "a new challenge to any steps designed to calm the situation and resolve the crisis through serious dialogue."

It is worth mentioning that the decision to replace the forces known for their loyalty to President 'Abdallah Salih reflects the south's fears resulting from the presence of northern forces in sensitive positions while the president is refusing to withdraw the forces from the capital. [passage omitted]

A high-ranking YSP official has said that "Yemen is fine," but declined to talk about the political crisis affecting Sanaa and Aden at present. The strange thing is that this official, who is known for his decisive stands inside closed meetings, especially with regard to the present crisis, used to agree in his public stance with the position adopted by the General People's Congress [GPC], the other party to the current conflict.

Perhaps the YSP official's reserve was attributable to the fact that he has a "security mentality" which led to a contradiction in his statements compared with the statements he makes to his colleagues in a party which has a diversity of leaders and committees. Whereas in the GPC there is one main leadership, namely President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the secretary general, who is trying to run matters in Sanaa normally as though there were no crisis, in the hope of "marginalizing" YSP demands and giving the impression that the situation is under control.

A well-informed GPC source declined to make any statements on the GPC's position. He also declined to say whether this is in conformity with the tactic pursued by the GPC at this stage. He said: "We are committed to the decision of the leadership of the ruling coalition—which comprises the GPC, the YSP, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping—namely not to make any statements to the media." [passage omitted]

GPC Calls Crisis Meeting

NC0811065493 Paris AFP in English 0105 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 8 (AFP)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress party called on Sunday night for a crisis meeting of the three-man collegial leadership to settle differences undermining the union between North and South achieved in 1990.

In a communique broadcast on television the GPC called for an "immediate" meeting between Salih, Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn al-Ahmar to "examine all aspects of the political crisis" to "prevent further deterioration".

Al-Bid, the leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) went back to Aden in the former South Yemen in August and has refused to return unless Salih accepts an 18-point programme of reforms, including a radical decentralisation of the economy and a crackdown on people responsible for political terrorism.

Al-Bid whose party has been the target of several attacks since unification, was further alienated ten days ago when one of his nephews was killed in an attack aimed at his sons.

Last Tuesday, a request from Al-Bid for military camps to be withdrawn from main urban areas was turned down by the president.

Al-Ahmar, the president of parliament and leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Al-Islah party has blamed the YSP for the crisis.

The GPC communique published after a three-day meeting, urged the "armed forces to stay out of political conflicts" and called for an end to "military provocations". It said "involvement of the armed forces in these conflicts would be a disaster".

On Friday, Al-Bid denounced what he called the "disorder" in the country but said he was prepared to take part in talks to settle the crisis.

A source close to the YSP described the situation in Yemen as "critical".

The armies of the two former Yemens—150,000 men for the north and 40,000 men from the formerly Marxist south—have still not merged to form a unified force.

GPC Issues 7 Nov Statement

JN0811111293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Statement issued by the General Committee of the Yemeni General People's Congress in Sanaa on 7 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] held a general and continuous meeting from Friday, 5 November 1993 until 7 November under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general. During this meeting, the GPC General Committee reviewed the national developments and situation and the changes that took place following the honorable democratic achievement of our people represented by the free elections held on 27 April. These elections produced the first parliament under the umbrella of the blessed unity, the experiment of the coalition government, parliamentary coordination among the GPC, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. This was an important and responsible national democratic step to shoulder the common responsibility of ruling the country, tackle the negative aspects of the transitional period, firmly confront all living, [word indistinct] and social imbalances, uproot all forms of corruption. In addition, this step aimed at shouldering [word indistinct] tasks promised by the coalition parties in their election platforms and at fulfilling the government's promises laid down in the program according to which the government won the confidence of the House of Representatives.

In its review of these changes and developments, and in which it monitored their directions and dimensions, the GPC General Committee noticed the twisting paths and ruptures that characterized the dialogues and stands among the parties to the coalition and which revolved around the issues on which the three parties to the coalition reached full agreement prior to the formation of the current government. Foremost of these issues are the constitutional amendments, which were the subject of [word indistinct] and thorough study between the YSP and the GPC for more than two years, after which, a final formula was reached.

In light of the results of the elections and the formation of the government coalition, these amendments were studied again and agreement was reached on them with the participation of the YRG. Agreement was reached on the constitutional amendments approved in principle by the House of Representatives out of full conviction and vigilant awareness—on the part of the House of Representatives and the YSP, YRG, and GPC parliamentary blocs—that the constitutional amendments form the basis and requirements for democratic coordination and for building a state based on law and order. Therefore, the constitional amendments aimed at underscoring and explaining the political, economic, social, and (?defense) bases of the state and at (?adding) a number of constitutional provisions to ensure the setting up of a political system based on party pluralism and [words indistinct] of the authority and to ensure the citizens' liberties and basic rights which were not dealt with by the provisions of the [word indistinct] constitution.

Furthermore, the constitutional amendments aimed at separating the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of power, defining and controlling the relationship among these branches of power, and preventing dualism and loss of responsibility in order to build the state of law and order which is the objective of everybody.

The constitutional amendments call for setting up the local administrative system on the basis of administrative and financial decentralization and expanding the powers of local councils, being a part of the government departments, because the setting up of local councils and reinforcing their role in the local field are among the bases of building the state of law and order. Although the experiment of the coalition government produced positive signs in the first months of the coalition, signs of a confidence crisis within the coalition government appeared during the last few months before the presidential council elections. This forced the GPC to define and explain its convictions vis-a-vis them. The report of the GPC General Committee in its meeting on 10 October includes the following:

1. Absolute belief in unbroken cohesion between unity and democracy.

2. The need for reinforcing and continuing the government coalition on the clear and sound bases included in the document of government coalition and parliamentary coordination signed by the GPC, YSP, and YRG, as this coalition is a national objective to ensure stability, give momentum to the development process, to resolve the living and social problems of the citizens, and to enhance the Yemeni society.

3. The belief that dialogue to reach harmonious opinions is the best and basic method to tackle all problems provided that the national interests are above all considerations.

4. The elected legislative and constitutional institutions are the final reference to resolve all differences. Any agreement outside these institutions and any lack of respect for them are considered a misinterpretation of legitimacy and democracy and an attempt to bypass them.

The GPC General Committees made a thorough and responsible assessment of the regrettable current developments and situation caused by fabricated crisis. As a result of this, the forces that are hostile to unity and democracy found in this situation a suitable climate to cause a rift in the national ranks and to encroach on the people's achievements. This, in turn, posed a direct threat to unity, democracy, and the higher national principles. The GPC General Committee affirms that we cannot remain silent about this and that no honest, free Yemeni citizen can bypass it or discuss any proposals that are contrary to them regardless of the excuses and attractions. Any hint or attempt to encroach on unity or democracy through any [word indistinct] or undemocratic act that aims at obstructing or paralyzing the constitutional state institutions and their laws will be firmly and strongly confronted by all the Yemeni people and their institutions, political forces, and good national figures. Neither the people nor history will forgive or have mercy on those who work to encroach on the dearest national achievements or harm people in their dearest hopes and in their rights to unity, democracy, liberty, and social justice and progress.

The General Committee ("believes) that the first step to emerge from the crisis is to return to the same path with the same impartial spirit under which the state of unity was set up and under which the coalition government and parliamentary coordination was established. The leaders of the coalition government should do this within the constitutional institutions of the state. This will only be achieved if the entire presidential council assumes its responsibilities and undertakes its tasks and duties, if the House of Representatives undertakes its constitutional tasks in the fields of legislation and control, if the government undertakes its executive tasks and tackles the citizens' issues and their living, security, and services issues, and if the mechanism of the government coalition is sincerely activated.

In this regard, the General Committee appeals to all constitutional bodies to hold serious and continuous meetings as soon as possible to find sound solutions to all the legacies of the partition and transition period, to the negative aspects of the current stage, and the causes of the crisis, and to overcome its effects and repercussions on the march of the homeland, unity, and democracy. On the same level, the General Committee, after having read the statement issued by the House of Representatives on 5 November concerning the crisis, highly appreciates the responsible and patriotic stand of the people's representatives. It announces the GPC's commitment, including all its components, members, leaderships, and all those who sympathize with it in all the state organs and institutions, to all the House of Representatives' directives included in the aforementioned statement. It also calls for resuming serious and responsible dialogue among the parties to the coalition government through holding an immediate joint meeting for the GPC General Committee, the YSP Political Bureau, and the YRG Higher Committee, and through holding a meeting for the brother secretaries general of the GPC and YSP, and the YRG leader, for the sake of direct open dialogue to reach common views and a unified stand toward all issues pertaining to building the homeland and its progress, and which safeguard its unity, democratic option, and the revolution's achievements; to decide on all the issues and points in question; to stop further regrettable deteriorations and the repercussions which are full of threats to the homeland; and to agree on serious and decisive solutions to all the pressing issues related to people's living conditions, security, and stability.

The GPC, including its various leaderships and components, stresses its commitment to its national responsibility under these critical and important circumstances in the history of our homeland and the march of our people, calls on the YSP, including all its leaderships and cadres, and all the political parties and forces, popular organizations, and national functionaries to assume their national and historic responsibilities to safeguard unity; to confront all those who attempt to escalate the situation, implement the schemes of forces that are hostile to unity and democracy, and cause harm to our people's national achievements, foremost of which are unity and democracy; and to sincerely work to unify national ranks for the sake of closing the door, once and for all, to the enemies of the homeland and unity inside and outside [the homeland].

The GPC General Committee calls on all the sons of the Armed Forces and security personnel—commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers—to assume their national responsibilities as protectors of national sovereignty and constitutional legitimacy, and to continue to keep away from political and party conflict, especially since they constitute a national institution that has always been and will continue to be part of the people, and for the entire homeland, protecting it and defending its achievements, gains, and legitimate institutions.

Based on this, the General Committee calls for the elimination of any new military measures, preparations, transfers, and movements, or any military actions and provocative measures that would contribute to escalating the crisis or drag the homeland to undesired developments, God forbid. The General Committee emphasizes that involving the Armed Forces and security personnel in political conflicts is an extremely serious matter and a true catastrophe for the homeland, unity, and democracy.

Having followed up the noble efforts and stands of several brothers and friends through supporting our people and the march of unity and democracy, the General Committee expresses its extreme thanks and appreciation for all brothers and friends who, through their noble stands, have expressed support for our people, unity, and democratic approach. The General Committee affirms that the Yemeni unity is an important gain, not only for Yemen, but for all the sons of the Arab nation, as well as a basic element of security, stability, and peace in the region.

The GPC is fully confident that our people will overcome this difficult challenge, as they have always done under all circumstances, and will emerge mightier with a strong faith in the soundness of their approach and road to a prosperous future, unified homeland, and happy people. Let us all work for safeguarding unity and democracy. Let our slogan be unity and democracy forever.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our Lord! (they say), let not our hearts deviate now after Thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from Thine own Presence; for Thou art the Grantor of bounties without measure. [Koranic verse]

Issued by the GPC General Committee, Sanaa, on 7 November 1993

Tribes Reject Attempts To 'Undermine Unity'

PM0811114693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "Yemeni Tribes Announce That They 'Stand United' Against Attempts To 'Dismember the Homeland and Destroy its Unity'"]

[Text] Sanaa—The day before yesterday Yemeni tribes warned against attempts to "undermine the unity" of the country and declared that they stand "united against any attempt to harm the country, dismember the homeland, or destroy its unity." They also emphasized that any "marginalization" of the role of the tribes means marginalization of the entire people.

A number of tribal chiefs, dignitaries, and eminent figures issued a statement at the end of a five-day meeting in Sanaa (concluded Tuesday) [2 Nov] attended by tribes from all governorates and headed by Shaykh Naji 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif. The statement said that the participants discussed the current situation in Yemen "out of realization of the seriousness and complexity of the political differences, a matter which could affect the country's future and harm the historic achievements made at various levels, especially the reunification of the land and the people." The statement added that "out of everyone's eagerness to safeguard the great historic achievements and to spare the country political altercations which could harm unity, and after lengthy comprehensive discussions and exchanges of views," the participants decided the following:

1. All, including the Yemeni tribes from al-Mahrah to Sa'dah and from Hadramaut to al-Hudaydah, agreed to stand united against any attempt to harm the territory or honor or dismember the homeland or destroy its unity.

2. The participants reaffirmed their absolute rejection of statements or resolutions issued in the name of the tribes under any title. Everything that has been issued represents, not the Yemeni tribes in any way, but personal views serving personal interests.

3. They also reaffirmed that the Yemeni tribes represent the vast majority of the Yemeni people, have always played a historic role and a role in the struggle, and do so to this day. To overlook them or marginalize their role is to overlook and marginalize the role of all the Yemeni people.

4. The Yemeni tribes, aware of their responsibilities, are watching political develop...ents closely and are well aware of all the failed attempts to undermine Yemen's unity, resources, security, and stability.

5. The representatives of the Yemeni tribes studied the current political situation, background, and motives. They warn against any escalation of the differences which could lead Yemen and its people to an unforeseeable fate (...). They call on everyone to submit points of contention to discussion and debate and to let Sanaa be the venue of the dialogue in its capacity as the political and historical capital of Yemen. Objective dialogue and purposeful discussion are the only way out of the political crisis.

6. The participants hold the officials accountable for anyone who foments sedition and disunity of the Yemeni people or harms the homeland's resources or people.

7. The participants discussed the economic and living conditions in the country, including the high prices, which are causing the people daily suffering. The tribes hold the coalition government fully responsible for the deterioration in the country and for the harm caused to all aspects of the people's living conditions.

The statement said that the participants formed a committee under the chairmanship of Shaykh Naji 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif to participate in "any national dialogue that would contribute to a settlement of the current crisis." The committee will be in continuous contact with the tribes to keep them informed of developments.

Security Organs Seize Shipment of Smuggled Arms

PM0511152093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Security Organ Seizes Arms Smuggled From Sanaa to Aden"]

[Text] Aden—As the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau started an extraordinary meeting in Aden under Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Yemeni President Council, an announcement was made of the uncovering of arms being smuggled under a consignment of flour carried by a Mercedes truck on the al-Bayda'-Abyan road.

Security sources have said that the vehicle, which was coming from Sanaa, was seized in the al-'Alam area before reaching Aden. The arms hidden under the flour were as follows:

—150 U.S.-made Strela antitank rockets. They are also used to shell aircraft parked in airports. They are light in weight, so individuals can carry them. They also have a high destructive capability.

—Thirteen Dushka [as transliterated] guns and their accessories, in addition to large quantities of shells.

—Grenade launchers and various ammunitions for them.

The security sources added that they knew of the delivery of a similar consignment to Aden about a month ago. However, they did not disclose whether it was seized and confiscated.

While party sources declined to reveal the issues included on the Political Bureau's agenda, observers expected the meeting to deal with what leaders of the ruling coalition (the General People's Congress, the YSP, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping) had agreed on, namely the need to suspend the reciprocal media campaign and prepare the atmosphere for a serious national dialogue.

The General People's Congress [GPC] had accused the YSP of encouraging partitionist views in the southern governorates and demanded that it remove the checkpoints set up near al-Dali' city in Lahij Governorate on the road linking it to the capital, Sanaa, in addition to the checkpoints set up on the Ta'izz road, in order to avoid arms smuggling, in the wake of the bombings of which the Jihad organization in Aden was accused.

The GPC's proposals raised at the Political Bureau meeting include securing the necessary conditions to end the present crisis by agreeing to move military units from the cities, including Sanaa, gradually in accordance with a certain timetable whose implementation is to be overseen by the government. And persuading al-Bid to begin a tour of the governorates at the end of which he should return to Sanaa.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa 5 Nov

Received by Foreign Minister

JN0511210093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Brother struggle Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit of several days. He is accompanied by brothers Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary of the Lebanese nationalist movement, and 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat said he will meet with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Yemeni leaders in order to exchange views and brief them on the developments of the Palestine question in particular and regional issues in general. He indicated that he will listen to Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's wise views on the problems and difficulties facing the Palestine question concerning the implementation of the agreement that the PLO and Israel signed in Washington. He said: The obstacles that has faced the agreement at the Taba meetings prompted us to suspend these meetings in order to assess the situation in general, because we want an accurate and scrupulous implementation.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat added that contacts have been held with the cosponsors of the conference and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who yesterday dispatched Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to meet with Rabin and Peres in a bid to overcome these obstacles.

He was received upon arrival by brothers Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah, Palestinian Ambassador Yahya Rabah, and other Palestinian revolution officials.

'Arafat Statement Reported

LD0611181193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa yesterday on an official visit to the Yemen Republic. [passage omitted] Brother President Abu 'Ammar made the following statement at the airport:

I have not come to Yemen, but I have come to the Yemeni part from the Palestinian part. There is no doubt that during this visit it is important for me to meet with Mr. President and brother Yemeni leaders so that I can report to them on the current developments along the field of our Palestinian issue in particular and the issues in the area in general.

I will be happy to undertake this meeting and to listen to the wise views of Mr. President on all the problems and difficulties we face in implementing the agreement we signed in Washington.

These obstacles emerged at the Taba meetings, a matter that made us suspend these meetings so that we review the situation generally. It is because we want a precise implementation. The two cochairmen of the conference were contacted, and also Mr. Husni Mubarak sent his foreign minister to meet Rabin and Peres in an attempt to surmount these obstacles.

Brother president Abu 'Ammar went on to say: I will brief Mr. President about these developments and will listen to his wise and prudent views on this matter, God willing. [passage omitted]

Israel Must Stick To 'Letter' of Accord

NC0611065193 Paris AFP in English 0452 GMT 6 Oct 93

(Text] Sanaa, Nov 6 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat said Friday [5 November] he would insist that Israel stick "to the letter" of its autonomy deal with the PLO.

'Arafat emphasised this in a press statement as he arrived in the Yemeni capital for a visit of unspecified length. The PLO on Tuesday walked out of talks with the Israelis in the Egyptian town of Taba in a row over the scope of the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza.

"The implementation of the agreement has run into obstacles, a fact which led us to suspend the Taba negotiations in order to make a general review of the situation, because what we want is for the agreement to be applied precisely and to the letter," 'Arafat said.

The PLO complained that Israel was offering only to redeploy the army in the Gaza Strip and not to withdraw in line with the September 13 autonomy accord. The Palestinians said they wanted a "general military withdrawal" while Israel proposed pulling back troops to three areas round Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

'Arafat said there had been contacts with the United States, Russia—the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace talks—and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "to try to overcome the obstacles '.

Israeli radio said talks would resume in Taba next week.

Meanwhile an informed Palestinian source in Tunis said 'Arafat had gone to Sanaa to mediate in a two-month-old quarrel over policy between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Bid Receives 'Arafat in Aden

JN0611164893 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, today in Aden received brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and his accompanying the delegation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the situation [words indistinct] of the Palestinian issue in light of developments in the Arab and international situation and issues of common interest.

During the meeting, brother al-Bid reiterated the Yemeni Republic's support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and its [word indistinct] which aims at restoring their legitimate rights and achieving a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees security and stability in the region.

For his part, brother 'Arafat expressed his appreciation of Yemen's principled and firm stands in support of the Palestinian's rights and its national choices under the leadership of the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative. [passage omitted]

Brother Yasir 'Arafat left Aden, the economic and trade capital, for Sanaa. He was bade farewell by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and [name of governor indistinct].

Salih Receives 'Arafat

JN0611182793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, together with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al- Ghani, Presidential Council member, has received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who is currently visiting our country.

The two presidents held talks that centered on developments on the Palestinian arena, including the Palestinian-Israeli Gaza- Jericho First agreement, and the difficulties facing the Taba talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, as well as conditions in the occupied Arab Palestinian territories.

The talks touched on developments in the Arab arena and issues of concern to the Arab nation. The two presidents reviewed several issues concerning the militant ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

The Presidential Council chairman reaffirmed the principled position in support of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights. He also stressed our country's concern to do all it can to secure the unity of Palestinian ranks and positions in the face of all developments concerning the Palestinians and their just cause.

The meeting was attended by brothers Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, deputy prime minister; Muhammad

Salim Basindwah, foreign minister; Ahmad 'Ali al- Salami, minister of electricity and water; Yahya al-Ra'i, member of the House of Representatives; and 'Ali al-Ahmadi, Sanaa governor.

The meeting was also attended by Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary of the Lebanese National Movement; 'Abbas Zaki, PLO Executive Committee member [title as heard]; Marwan (?Salfani), adviser to the Palestinian president; Yahya Rabah, state of Palestine ambassador in Sanaa; and Brigadier General Humayd [not further identified], commander of the Palestinian forces in Yemen.

'Arafat Endeavoring To 'Heal Rift'

JN0611203993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Nov (INA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat headed (?for Aden) tonight to meet again with Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who has been staying in Aden since 19 August.

An informed Palestinian source told an INA correspondent in Sanaa that Yasir 'Arafat, who met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih earlier this evening, is exerting sincere efforts to heal the rift between the Yemeni president and his deputy and to tackle the current political crisis in Yemen.

The Palestinian president met with the Yemeni vice president in Aden earlier today and discussed with him a number of current Arab and Yemeni issues and developments.

In order to end his stay in Aden and return to his political responsibilities, Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid is demanding implementation of 18 proposals calling for tackling the military situation, terminating military manifestations in cities, tackling the phenomenon of assassinations, and expediting the implementation of unity agreements.

'Arafat Departs Sanaa 7 Nov

JN0711130193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, left Sanaa today following a two-day visit to our country.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Yasir 'Arafat said he met with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council. He informed them of the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. He said that Yemeni unity is deep rooted and that the sons of the Yemeni people are eager to consolidate it in a spirit of amity and brotherhood until they overcome all obstacles facing it. He also praised the unique democratic experiment in Yemen.

He was seen off by brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, foreign minister; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa; and a representative of the Presidential Council Protocol Office.

Talks With Salih, al-Bid Detailed

LD0711195593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpt] In Sanaa, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday held a series of lengthy and important meetings with his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the presidential council of the Republic of Yemen, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president of the presidential council.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar held a lengthy bilateral meeting yesterday afternoon with his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the presidential council of the Republic of Yemen, after the luncheon banquet hosted by the Yemeni president in honor of brother President Abu-'Ammar and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they held an extensive discussion of the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. Brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed in detail developments in the negotiations with the Israeli side. Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed the Palestinian leadership's desire to support progress in all tracks of the negotiations with the other Arab sides to ensure that a comprehensive and just solution would be reached.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar made a quick visit to Aden yesterday morning. He was met there by Aden Governor (Salih al-Sili). Immediately after his arrival in Aden, Abu-'Ammar held a lengthy meeting with brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice president of the presidential council of the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting focussed on a discussion of all the current developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, particularly Palestinian and Yemeni developments. Brother Abu- 'Ammar stressed the importance of Yemeni unity in the march to unity of our Arab nation and the success of democracy in the Yemeni arena.

Brother Abu-'Ammar returned to Aden for a second time in the evening for a meeting with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to complete the discussion of fundamental and important topics.

Brother Abu-'Ammar had a second meeting with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in the evening to follow up the discussion of these important topics related to removing the obstacles that we are all endeavoring to solve for the benefit of Yemen and its unity and prosperity. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Visit Likely After Jordanian Elections

PM0511153093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Yemen: King Husayn to Visit After Jordanian Elections"]

[Excerpt] The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] met at 'Ali Salim al-Bid's house in Aden yesterday. This was the second Political Bureau meeting hosted by al-Bid at his home since he moved away from his government office on 19 August. Political sources say that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the political crisis in Yemen and the possibility of calling an extraordinary meeting of the party Central Committee. The first meeting held at the house of the party secretary general [al-Bid] in Aden, days after he began his seclusion, was a turning point in the crisis and confirmed al-Bid's control of the party.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Sanaa have confirmed that King Husayn intends to visit Yemen to see for himself on the spot whether anything could be done to resolve the crisis, because of his ties with Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with al-Bid, who still refuses to take the constitutional oath that would enable him to take up his duties as deputy chairman of the Presidential Council. The sources, who had expected the Jordanian monarch to arrive today, have not ruled out the possibility that he might postpone the visit until 10 November, that is after the Jordanian elections on Monday and the announcement of the results. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff, Delegation Leave for Abu Dhabi

JN0611133593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of the General Staff, left for Abu Dhabi this morning on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The chief of the General Staff is leading a large military delegation, in response to an invitation by his brother Staff Major General Muhammad Jabir Al Nuhayyan, chief of the General Staff of the UAE Armed Forces.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the brother chief of the General Staff said he carries a message from brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on the intimate brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

State Agencies Ordered To Stop Buying U.S. Dollars

JN0711164093 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Baghdad—As a measure to offset sharp rises in the price of foodstuffs, the Iraqi Government has ordered state agencies to stop buying U.S. dollars on the local market. The measure was taken at a Cabinet session held yesterday and chaired by President Saddam Husayn, according to Iraqi papers published today, Tuesday.

The government is being given exceptional powers to deal with inflation.

Ministries and other government departments are known to secure the bulk of their hard currency requirements from the local market, thus driving up the dollar exchange rate.

The Ministry of Trade, for example, has a monthly requirement of $90 million to meet ration card holders' needs for basic foodstuffs at subsidized prices.

Dealers in the parallel exchange market indicated that holding off from buying the dollar, albeit temporarily, would mean the absence from the market of a significant customer for hard currency.

Iraq has been under comprehensive international economic sanctions since 1990.

In the parallel market, the dollar yesterday traded at 105 dinars, down 10 dinars from the day before yesterday's rate of 115 dinars. Dealers, however, reported today that the exchange rate is unstable, and the dollar's downward trend is likely to persist as a consequence of the new measure.

National Assembly Discusses Economic, Other Issues

JN0611201593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly this afternoon held the first session of its second term, the Mother of Battles term. At the beginning of the inauguration ceremony, the first chapter of the Koran was read to ask for God's mercy on the lives of the righteous martyrs. [passage omitted]

During its first session, the Assembly discussed the activities of the Assembly's spJaker and the legal committee's report containing some legal articles pertaining to social life. The Assembly also discussed the current economic and political situation in Iraq and ways of countering hostile schemes.

Cabinet Views Economy; Saddam Accepts Recommendations

JN0711181893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir this morning chaired the weekly ordinary cabinet session, also attended by his deputy Tariq 'Aziz. Speaking for himself and his fellow ministers, the prime minister said he was proud of and grateful for the exceptional powers President Saddam Husayn invested in the cabinet to monitor the living conditions of the population when his excellency chaired 1 November's cabinet session. Khudayyir and the ministers said they hoped they would measure up to the trust placed in them by the president. They further promised his excellency that they will spare no effort toward serving the people and improving the population's living conditions so as to invigorate popular steadfastness and jihad under the president's leadership until sure victory, God willing.

The prime minister proceeded to make it clear that his excellency the leader president, may God take good care of him, approved the recommendations of the council of ministers from earlier sessions. The recommendations were made by committees the cabinet set up as instructed by his excellency when the ministers were sworn in 5 September, 1993. The recommendations called for cutting back on middlemen, adding a new item to the ration card, distributing other goods via the central markets and existing outlets, adding a large number of [word indistinct] materials to the list of goods excluded from the banned imports and exempting them from customs duties and import restrictions, facilitating [word indistinct] medicines and medical materials, and rationing their use and preventing their manipulation or the manipulation of their prices.

In a future session, the cabinet is to discuss the report of the committee, chaired by the minister of justice, including recommendations to streamline the judicial procedure and expedite the prosecution of court cases.

The cabinet also discussed the licensing of money exchange businesses in today's session. After an exhaustive review, the Cabinet approved the ministerial committee's report and the Iraqi Central Bank's report about organizing the money exchange business in accordance with partially amended controls and terms.

The cabinet also looked into a report by the Oil Ministry about pricing oil products and decided against any increase in the existing prices.

Magazine Cited on 'Aziz Meeting With 'Zionists'

NC0811165093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The [Lebanese weekly] magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI says that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz visited France and met with officials from the Zionist Foreign and Defense Ministries. The magazine reports that a French official organized the meeting. It is worth noting that 'Aziz's visit to France, ostensibly conducted for medical treatment, generated interest among international and regional circles and raised questions concerning the regime's attempt to coordinate with the Zionists and join the peace talks. The regime particularly hopes to sell Iraqi oil—the wealth that

rightly belongs to future generations—to France in its bid to stay in power and maintain its repressive hold on the country.

Defense Minister Attends Live-Fire Night Exercise

JN0711161193 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the minister of defense, has attended the 'Great Victory' live-ammunition tactical night exercise. The exercise was carried out by the Muhammad formation of the heroic al-Miqdad forces from the al-Qadisiyah forces operations sector.

At the beginning of the exercise, the al-Miqdad Forces deputy commander, the director of the exercise, presented a briefing on the purpose of the exercise and the lessons to be learned. He also explained the general and specific concepts of this exercise.

The commander of the formation that carried out the exercise held two meetings on directives and coordination in which duties were discussed and detailed plans were reviewed. After that, commanders and officers began discussions, most of which were focused on better performance.

At the end of the discussion, the minister of defense said: What we have heard and seen calls for reassurance and joy about what our great Army has achieved in their spirit of struggle and nationalism, which they gained from the great leader Saddam Husayn.

At the end of the exercise, the minister commended the efforts of those who prepared and executed the 'Great Victory' exercise.

The exercise was attended by the fighter Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, the Army chief of staff; his assistants for operations and training; the commander of Al-Qadisiyah forces; the Al-Basrah Ba'th Party branch military secretary; and ranking Army officers.

Production of First Arab-Made Robot Claimed

JN0611110093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Military industrialization strugglers have managed, for the first time in Iraq and the Arab world, to manufacture a robot which has been named "Challenge."

Engineer Khalil Ibrahim al-Asadi, director of the Automation and Robotics Center, an affiliate of the Military Industrialization Organization, said that it is the first Arab robot produced by local expertise and materials, in terms of mechanics, electronics, and controls, with the help of an electronic computer of the Salah-al-Din 201 type. He said the entire network is pure Iraqi.

He added that the Iraqi robot was designed for transport purposes and has four axes: The first executes ground linear movement for one meter in two opposite directions; the second for circular movement from 0 to 300 degrees; the third for vertical movement up and down to a height of half a meter; while the fourth axis is designed for the movement of the wrist from 0 to 360 degrees. He pointed out that the robot's load capacity is 10 kg and is used for loading, unloading, and transport.

Al-Asadi said the robot was of a cylindrical design to facilitate movement. A turntable along with all its necessary equipment was also manufactured. The turntable works in conjunction and harmony with the robot through the central controls of the computer.

Al-Asadi said that the national Iraqi cadres who manufactured the robot have gained new experience that enables them to create an industrial basis for this advanced science.

'Reverse Engineering' Used To Produce Auto Spare Parts

JN0711124693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—The Jabir Bin-Hayyan Establishment, an affiliate of the Military Industrialization Organization, will shortly manufacture and market auto fuel and oil filters for the first time in Iraq.

Engineer Taha Salman al-'Ujayl, director of the establishment, told INA this step is part of the state's measures to provide spare parts for automobiles and production and services units, whose activity has been affected by the embargo against Iraq.

He added that the manufacturing process has depended on reverse engineering and the use of locally available raw materials. He added that as of the beginning of next year, these products will be marketed locally to satisfy Iraq's needs. [passage omitted]

Rabin on 'Significant Gaps' in Taba Talks

TA0711192093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says there are significant gaps between Israel and the Palestinians in the negotiations on implementing autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. At the weekly cabinet meeting, the issue of removing the PLO from the list of terrorist organizations did not come up. David Ze'ev reports:

According to a government official, Prime Minister Rabin told cabinet ministers the Taba format had not proved itself. The reason, said Rabin, the fact that the negotiations took place through the light of cameras; an openness which, he said, sharpened the differences between the two sides. The prime minister referred to the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians as significant. He said they pose a serious problem. The premier told the cabinet that the question is just how long it will take until the problems can be resolved. Perhaps to underline those problems Rabin said the difficulties are complex, and that Israel will not back down from its commitment to provide security for the Jewish settlements in the autonomy area for the Israelis driving through on the roads there, and two provide external security for Israel on the borders between the autonomous areas and Jordan and Egypt in the cases of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively.

As consultations took place on the future of the talks with the Palestinians on Gaza and Jericho, Israel's chief negotiator, General Amnon Shahaq, the Army deputy chief of staff, could be seen entering the Prime Minister's Office as the cabinet meeting concluded.

The step of removing the PLO from Israel's list of terrorist organizations was on the agenda at the government meeting, according to the acting cabinet secretary, but did not come up. An unscheduled development that did take place was the news relayed to Prime Minister and Defense Minister Rabin and security officers of the shooting attack in the Hebron area on the car of Rabbi Hayim Druckman. Cabinet ministers were given a first report of the circumstances.

Peres on Resumption of Taba Talks, Syrian Contacts

TA0711065893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the PLO will soon announce its return to the Taba talks, but adds that it is not out of the question that they will be held in another location instead of Taba. According to reports, one venue being mentioned is Cairo.

[Another report later in the newscast adds that "Prime Minister Rabin's media adviser Gad Ben-Ari says Israel and the PLO might move some negotiating committees away from Taba, in order to reduce media coverage. In an interview with the Associated Press, Ben-Ari said until now, the Taba talks had been taking place in front of the cameras, and the fact that every two hours negotiators had to come out and make statements has impeded progress and slowed the pace of the negotiations."]

Speaking last night in Jerusalem, Peres refused to either confirm or deny meeting with Jordan's King Husayn last week, but did say that he believed an agreement with Jordan was, in his words, very close. On the Syrian front, the foreign minister said Damascus had refused to conduct any negotiations outside the framework of the Washington talks.

Referring to the election of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Peres called it a terrible mistake. Before his appearance at a Hebrew University seminar on relations between Israel and the Middle East, reporter David Essing asked him whether the PLO has informed Israel that it is returning to Taba this week.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Officially no. But I presume that this is the case. I do not see any reason why they should not be resumed.

[Essing] In your interview with an Egyptian newspaper you spoke of the need for a Rabin-al-Asad summit, but might not a summit be very detrimental to the peace process if there is no prior agreement on what is to be the outcome?

[Peres] No, I did not speak about it. I was asked if there is a possibility of such a summit. I said yes, it is possible, but I did not predict, and I did not suggest.

[Essing] One final question if I may, Mr. Peres. How would you sum up the defeat of Teddy Kollek in Jerusalem? Do you think that there are political implications for the government?

[Peres] I think it is the fault of the secular part of Jerusalem. They will have to carry the cost and pay the price for it. I think it is a terrible mistake, and I do not believe it has too much to do with the peace policies of the government, in Jerusalem. [end recording]

Peres Says 'Some Progress' Made on Syrian Track

NC0611080793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that President Husni Mubarak's message which was delivered to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa two days ago contained new ideas aimed at achieving progress and injecting new blood into the peace process on the various tracks.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, Peres said that Israel received these ideas with interest and is now carefully studying them, noting that they will have positive effects in the area very soon.

Peres said that President Mubarak's recent tour and his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad resulted in

some progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, but he refused to specify the extent of this progress.

Peres expressed the hope that there will be a meeting between President al-Asad and Rabin, but he called for careful preparations for such a meeting in order not to avoid a setback for the peace efforts. The Israeli foreign minister said he hoped that such a meeting will take place before the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

Peres admitted there are differences between Israel and the United States regarding statements by Israeli officials that there is currently no need for progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. But he said that this is a "technical difference" and will not cause problems in the relations between the two countries.

The Israeli foreign minister said that the signing of agreements between Jordan and Israel will not be held up for the signing of an agreement between Syria and Israel.

Regarding the Taba negotiations, Peres said that the negotiations will be resumed this week, and described the obstacles as insignificant. He said problems regarding the transfer of authority to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho can be solved.

Peres disclosed that contacts are taking place between Israel and a number of Arab states for mutual recognition and the establishment of relations, but he refused to name these states. He said Israel welcomes anything that can promote peace and stability.

Savir Denies Presence at Peres-Husayn 'Meeting'

TA0611090493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, in Paris, by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Excerpts] [Talmor] Good morning to you, Mr. Savir.

[Savir] Good morning.

[Talmor] What impressions of King Husayn did you receive during your meeting with him last week?

[Savir, laughing] I could not receive any impressions, because I did not participate in such a meeting.

[Talmor] You did not participate in the meeting?

[Savir] I cannot tell you whether such a meeting was held, because at the time this meeting was supposedly held, I was in the United States.

[Talmor] It was reported, however, that you participated in the meeting along with Mr. Peres.

[Savir] Various rumors are being aired.

[Talmor] This morning THE WASHINGTON POST reported that the meeting was held in Amman, not in al-'Aqabah, as was reported in Israel.

[Savir] I do not want to dwell on the issue of the meeting. This is not the first time that such reports have been aired. Let us wait and see.

[Talmor] Well, we note that at least you did not deny the meeting took place. [passage omitted]

Will there be a summit meeting between Husayn, Prime Minister Rabin, and President Clinton in Washington late next week?

[Savir] I know nothing about this.

[Talmor] Are there efforts to organize such a meeting?

[Savir] I cannot tell you, because I am not aware of such a thing. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] We spoke about a possible meeting between Rabin and Husayn in the near future. Can you tell us about a positive development in the negotiations with Syria—perhaps about a meeting between Rabin and al-Asad in the near future?

[Savir] Not only is this an exaggerated rumor, there is also some exaggerated optimism about this issue.

[Talmor] There was talk about a meeting between Israeli and Syrian officers this week.

[Savir] My former answer applies here as well. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Support for Golan, Gaza Withdrawal

TA0711112193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] The Likud will support the government, if the peace agreement it reaches with Syria includes a withdrawal from the Golan Heights along with appropriate security arrangements. This support would be coupled with a demand to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu told our correspondent, adding that as far as he is concerned an agreement on a pullout from the Gaza Strip and on granting full autonomy to the inhabitants is attainable.

Netanyahu added that he intends to adopt the security principles concerning the West Bank spelled out in the Alon plan which were embraced by Labor in its political platform in order to enable advocates of the plan to join the opposition to the establishment of an independent state in the territories.

Lubrani Rules Out Withdrawal Before Lebanon Accord

NC0711085993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the Israeli Government coordinator of Lebanese affairs, has stated that Israel will continue to

take all necessary measures to deal with terrorist threats in southern Lebanon. He said that Israel does not intend to withdraw from the security strip as long as no agreement has been reached with Lebanon. He noted that such an agreement depends on Syria.

Musa Views Taba Talks, Peace Process During Visit

TA0511184893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Me'ir Kohen on 4 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] There have been reports about the possibility of new and imminent developments in the peace process. How accurate are these reports?

[Musa] We actually expect positive developments to take place in the peace process. More precisely, we hope this progress will occur. The current talks in Taba on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho are intense. It is natural for difficulties to arise. I believe, just as the Israeli officials whom I met today believe, that all those difficulties can be overcome.

[Kohen] Your Excellency, apart from the hope, could you please inform us about any concrete developments?

[Musa] The concrete developments are clear in that the talks are continuing. The talks have not ended. They have not stopped, but have been suspended for a short while so that the two parties can go back to the higher authorities to discuss some matters. The important thing is that following the Palestinian-Israeli accord, everyone should work for its success and advancement. Common sense dictates that all should cooperate, foremost of all Israel, to promote the accord. The start is withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. A very important point, especially for us, is to have this accord implemented in a good and honest fashion in all its provisions. This is because many things hinge not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but also on all the other tracks.

[Kohen] Your Excellency, it is common knowledge that Egypt has a large role in the peace process. At the end of last week President Mubarak met with President Hafiz al-Asad in al-Ladhiqiyah. Did you raise any specific ideas in your meetings with Israeli officials?

[Musa] Of course. We did not confer about general matters. We talked about specific issues relating to all the tracks, including, of course, the Syrian-Israeli track. We are talking about those specific ideas as a party that has a role and holds contacts with all the parties. There are also ideas by the Israeli side. All the parties have ideas. Now that the talks have taken a long stride, we cannot talk about generalities but are discussing specific issues relating to the progress of those tracks.

[Kohen] In your meeting with the prime minister, what impression did you get after you raised those ideas, bearing in mind that the prime minister attaches importance to the Israeli-Palestinian accord?

[Musa] I conveyed a message from President Mubarak to the prime minister. Then we discussed the current situation. The head of the Israeli delegation in the Taba talks attended the meeting. I heard from him the Israeli position, just as yesterday I heard the Palestinian impression. I can say that I was optimistic over some of the discussions held with and in the presence of the prime minister. I came out of the meeting more optimistic than when I entered.

[Kohen] Will there be a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Musa] We hope so. We are all working toward that end.

[Kohen] What does your excellency expect?

[Musa] I believe—and I might add I hope—that this will happen as soon as possible.

[Kohen] Your Excellency, you have said that Syria is interested in peace. As far as Syria is concerned, what is the concept of peace? Is that normalization or the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel? This point is not clear to the Israelis.

[Musa] One thing should be clear. We are working within the framework of the principle of land for peace. Everything in exchange for everything. A comprehensive peace has one meaning only. The withdrawal must be comprehensive as well. No peace can be established without full withdrawal, and no peace can be established without a full peace. This formula is known and is accepted as a whole. Some definitions remain which we are discussing.

[Kohen] Do those definitions also include the establishment of relations and full normalization with Israel?

[Musa] I do not wish to enter into any details because this concerns the two parties. The important thing is that there should be full peace in return for full withdrawal. This is the main point and the cornerstone or the axis of the Israeli-Syrian peace.

[Kohen] In the wake of the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, when will the Arab states recognize Israel?

[Kohen] We must have patience over this issue and a sense that there is a linkage. The Syrian-Israeli track has still not advanced as much as necessary. The same thing applies to the Lebanese-Israeli track. The Jordanian-Israeli track has not moved adequately. A step has been taken on the Palestinian-Israeli track. We should take into account that with progress in the Israeli-Arab peace, progress will also occur in Arab-Israeli relations. Matters must move along together. The important thing is that the two parties move quickly together. Namely, that the Arab side should not be asked to take quick steps while

the Israeli side does not do so, and vice versa. Therefore, we hope that there will be quick movement toward the establishment of peace, withdrawal, the start of the interim period in the Palestinian-Israeli peace, and the final phase. All this will create momentum, which will definitely be translated in practice toward measures that please all the parties.

Low U.S. Profile in Peace Negotiations Criticized

TA0711125093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Uzi Benziman: "Just Like the First Channel"]

[Text] Using some wild imagination, the needs of the Israeli-Arab peace process and the U.S. attitude toward it can be compared to the launching of Israel Television's second channel and the slow response of the first channel. The former is a new, fast-paced, and dynamic phenomenon, while the latter is an old product in need of new blood. Its administrators realize the need for a change but seem to go about it in a plodding and stodgy manner.

This somewhat clumsy analogy comes to mind in light of the sorry incompatibility between the needs of the Israeli-Arab reconciliation process and the attention paid to it by the Clinton administration. At a time when the Israeli-Syrian negotiations are stuck and hinder the chances of progress in the Israeli-Palestinian track as well as the potential attainment of peace with Jordan, the U.S. secretary of state places the Middle East only in fifth place in U.S. foreign policy priorities. A more experienced administration would devote more time, energy, and initiative to the crossroads in which the political solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict finds itself.

Syria is holding back, if not blocking, the peace process. It has considerable ability and power to derail the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and to jeopardize a possible agreement with Jordan which, according to press reports last week, is gradually taking form. Syria's ability to directly influence these two tracks stems from its geographical proximity to Jordan, the dependence of the rejectionist organizations on its patronage, and President al-Asad's values concerning power.

Syria's destructiveness applies to another plane. Due to its presence in Lebanon, it controls a key element that shapes Israeli public opinion concerning the peace process, namely the casualty toll. If he so wishes, President al-Asad could encourage the violent conflagrations in south Lebanon, resulting in the loss of Israeli lives. This would definitely have an adverse effect on the attitude of Israelis toward the reconciliation process with the Arab world.

This considerable destructive power must not be taken lightly. The ability to sustain the people's support for the government's peace moves largely depends on the situation created as a result of the negotiations, the government's successful depiction of the beginning of an era of nonviolence, and its ability to give people the feeling that a different life is possible. A new atmosphere arising from talks about peace could trigger the psychological change leading to a new attitude toward our neighbors and our security needs. Syria could sabotage the interim phase we are negotiating with the Palestinians and Jordan if it is not integrated into the political process in a way that ensures it a real chance of getting its wishes fulfilled.

Yitzhaq Rabin comes across as a man who understands Syria's prominence in the efforts to put an end to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and as a man loathe to deal with this conflict because of the price tag it carries.

Rabin, as well as Shim'on Peres, signaled al-Asad, Clinton, and the Israeli people that they are in no rush where Syria is concerned. In the wake of the signing of the agreement with the PLO, both men believe that the Israeli people will not be able to digest a painful concession on the Golan Heights, and they would rather put off the bitter end. The problem is that the momentum in the political process following their agreement to shake hands with 'Arafat does not coincide with the inner tempo of their adjustment to the idea of a dialogue with Syria. There is no certainty that al-Asad will wait patiently until Rabin chooses to open a serious dialogue with him. He has his own agenda, which largely stems from the developments brought about by Rabin and Peres in the contacts with the PLO and Jordan.

Political processes are sweeping by nature. Those who agreed to sign the agreements in Oslo and Washington will find themselves signing an agreement in Taba, and those who initiated an agreement with Amman will find the pen to sign it. An Israeli-Syrian agreement is imperative in order to fulfill these two moves and ensure their validity. The process calls for such an initiative, and it is regrettable that the U.S. Administration has at this point adopted the same attitude as Israel Television's first channel.

'Terrorist' Attack on Rabbi Provokes Riots

Rabbi Wounded; Driver Killed

TA0711072293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, terrorists attacked the car of Rabbi Hayim Druckman at the Bayt Kahil junction near Hebron. The rabbi's chaffeur was moderately wounded while Rabbi Druckman was lightly injured by glass shards. The security forces have closed off the area. The driver was evacuated to a Jerusalem hospital for treatment. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has launched widespread searches for the terrorists.

The security forces have captured two youths from Dayr al-Balah who are suspected of planting the explosive charges discovered yesterday at the entrance to the Qatif Bloc. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the two youths are also suspected of being members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam terrorist squad. Border Police sappers dismantled the charges without any casualties.

Deputy Defense Minister Reacts to Attack

TA0711115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] With the help of helicopters, the security forces have launched a manhunt for the terrorists who attacked Rabbi Hayim Druckman's car near the Bayt Kahil junction west of Hebron. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the scene of the incident that Rabbi Druckman's car came to a stop on the very edge of an abyss after terrorists fired approximately 20 shots at it from a Kalashnikov rifle. Rabbi Druckman's driver, a resident of Kefar Darom, married and the father of four children, was fatally wounded in the shooting. The rabbi himself was wounded in the shoulder by a bullet. Rabbi Druckman also sustained cuts on the face and hands from glass shards, and was evacuated for treatment to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Rabbi Shim'on Ben-Tziyon from Qiryat Arba' told our correspondent that he was driving west towards Tel Aviv when he spotted Rabbi Druckman, all covered in blood, his car at the side of the road. Rabbi Ben-Tziyon immediately summoned the security forces. Our correspondent reports that Nehemya Tamari, the commander of the Central Command; Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, the commander of the Judaea and Samaria District; and other senior officers arrived at the scene. Police forensic experts collected evidence at the site, including the spent cartridges left behind by the terrorists. An investigation into the incident is continuing.

Reacting to the terrorist attack near Hebron, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that the government was responsible for the personal safety of the settlers in the territories. Gur told our correspondent Gil Litman that the government had done, and would continue to do, everything to prevent such incidents from recurring. Gur said he believed that the authorities would eventually quell the current wave of terrorist attacks. Responding to our correspondent's question about the recent upsurge in intifadah incidents, Deputy Defense Minister Gur said that generally speaking, there had been a drop in the number of intifadah incidents; however, there had been no decline in the number of shooting attacks.

In the wake of this morning's attack, Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman from Qiryat Arba' said that the settlers would prevent Arabs from using the Trans-Judaea highway.

Settlers Riot; Knesset Factions React

TA0711124293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Following this morning's terrorist attack, dozens of settlers rioted in Hebron. They caused damage to property and shot bullets in the air. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Qiryat Arba' residents scuffled with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who tried to prevent them from leaving their settlement. Settlers also blocked the Jerusalem-Nabulus road and the entry road to Jerusalem. The commander of the Central Command called on them to show restraint and not force the IDF to divert troops in order to handle them.

At today's cabinet session, security officials said that the PLO or its affiliates had no connection with the series of recent terrorist attacks. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Ministers Yosi Sarid and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that the bloody incidents should not be allowed to disrupt the agenda of the political process. Minister Shim'on Shetrit said that the general public had difficulty differentiating between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Therefore, while continuing the peace process, Israel should demand that the PLO take firm action against Islamic terrorism, as well as temporarily freezing any unilateral goodwill gestures.

Israel's right-wing factions reacted sharply to today's murder in Hebron. The Tzomet and Moledet factions called on the government to immediately halt the negotiations with the PLO, since that organization could not be absolved of all connection and responsibility for the continuing wave of murders. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset faction claimed that the government was responsible for the murder because its miserable policies had encouraged the terrorists and increased their confidence. The Likud also demanded a halt to the negotiations until the murder of Jews stopped.

Ran Kohen, the chairman of the Meretz Knesset faction said that Hamas and Islamic Jihad were harming Jews in order to kill peace. While it was the duty of the security forces to ruthlessly hunt down the murderers, the government must continue its peace efforts with the PLO, in order to foil the rejectionists' plans.

Rabin Expresses Regret Over Attack

TA0711160993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the government will insist on preserving the security of the settlers and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; will guarantee the safety of Israelis traveling along roads in these areas; and will maintain security along Israel's external borders. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that in a meeting with members of the Religious Kibbutz Movement—most of them from the 'Etzyon Bloc kibbutzim—Prime Minister Rabin expressed deep regret over the murder of Efrayim 'Ayubi near Hebron. He noted that since the signing of the agreement with the PLO there has been an increase in the number of terror attacks perpetrated against Israel by rejectionist front organizations, including an increase in the activity of Islamic organizations in Lebanon. Rabin emphasized, however, that since the agreement was signed the PLO has not carried out any terror attack against Israel.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 7 November reports that during the same meeting, "the heads of the Religious Kibbutz Movement demanded that Rabin impose Israeli sovereignty over the 'Etzyon Bloc. Rabin said he is unwilling to talk about the permanent solution, and that any declaration in this issue could harm the present negotiations. Rabin promised the secretary of the Religious Kibbutz Movement that no settlement will be uprooted."]

Groups Claim Responsibility

TA0711205693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The police have detained 38 right-wing demonstrators in downtown Jerusalem. During the demonstration and the violent confrontation with the police, five policemen and two demonstrators were wounded. The demonstrators managed to get near the prime minister's residence. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that relative calm is now prevailing in the area, and most of the demonstrators have left the site.

Petrol bombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles in several places in Judaea and Samaria this evening, but there were no injuries. An Israeli vehicle was damaged by a petrol bomb near the village of al-Jib north of Jerusalem. A police patrol car was torched in Nabulus after a petrol bomb hit the top of the car. Petrol bombs were thrown at a bus near the settlement of Bet Hagay, but nobody was injured.

Two Gaza residents were hospitalized this evening in the al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza for gunshot wounds. One was seriously wounded in the back, the other was shot in the legs. Gaza residents say the two were shot by settlers. They added that five Arabs who were beaten by Jews were treated in the al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. Their claim has not been confirmed by any other source.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has also taken responsibility for the murder of Efrayim 'Ayubi near Hebron today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that graffiti to this effect were painted on walls on Rafah, and preachers in Gaza mosques said the assailants were members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad. Earlier today Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine took responsibility for the attack.

Settlers Block Roads in Territories

TA0811062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpts] This morning, the settlers are continuing their protest actions. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has declared that if Jews are not able to travel safely along the roads in the region, neither will the Arabs be permitted to use them.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers are trying to prevent the Arab workers from leaving for their jobs in Israel, and they have converged on Arab townships and villages and blocked major roads and intersections. Our correspondent was told that the major obstructions are at the 'Etzyon Bloc intersection and in the Qatif Bloc, Har Hevron, the Jerusalem-Ben-Shemen road, the Jerusalem-Jericho road, and the Jerusalem-Nabulus road. The roads leading to the town of Ramallah are blocked in all directions. Our correspondent reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is coordinating all the activities and has ordered the settlers not to get into confrontations with the security forces.

As a result of the settlers' actions in the Jerusalem area, there are traffic jams and disruptions in public transportation on the roads both entering and leaving Jerusalem from the direction of Mishor Adumim, Mitzpe Yericho, the Jordan Rift Valley, the 'Etzyon Bloc, 'Ofra, and Giv'at Ze'ev. This was reported by our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich.

Two Arab residents from the Nabulus area were slightly wounded by shots this morning. The men claim Israelis shot at them while they were traveling in their car near the Tapuah intersection. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an initial investigation showed that approximately 15 shots had been fired at the car. The two were taken to a Nabulus hospital for treatment. The security forces have launched an investigation.

Several shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near the village of Bayt 'Awwa in the Ramallah area. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. The security forces have launched searches. [passage omitted]

A senior IDF commander in Judaea and Samaria said that terrorist squads, whose members formerly belonged to Fatah, have joined extremist organizations such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and are continuing to perpetrate terrorist attacks and murders. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that this was reported yesterday by Colonel Moti, the commander of the Efrayim Brigade, in a meeting with residents of Qarney Shomron and Ginot Shomron. The officer claimed that the identity of these squads is known to the IDF. Our correspondent reports that the meeting was stormy and that the settlers complained about the deterioration in the security situation and voiced furious objections to the IDF's heavy-handed suppression of their right to demonstrate. The IDF spokesman said he would not comment on the details of a closed meeting between an IDF commander and the settlers.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 November reports that "the settlers are currently removing the barriers from the roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and traffic is returning to normal. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip ordered the roadblocks removed. Settlers hurled rocks at Arab cars at a few locations, and the settlers clashed with security

forces in several areas. The police detained some settlers for questioning and later released them."]

Settler Group Claims Shooting of 2 Arabs

TA0811113393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpt] An ad hoc settler group has taken responsibility for the shooting incident in the territories this morning in which two Palestinians were lightly injured. Gunmen fired some 15 bullets on their car near the Tapuah Junction. Hundreds of settlers blocked the main roads in Judaea and Samaria this morning to protest yesterday's killing of Efrayim Ayubi near Hebron. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

Early this morning, a caller identifying himself as a member of the Committee for Security on the Roads in Judaea and Samaria told Israel Radio that the group is responsible for this morning's shooting incident in which two Palestinians were injured. The two, a father and a son, were on their way to Nabulus just after 3 o'clock this morning when some 15 shots were fired on their car. The two say the gunmen were in a car with Israeli plates. They were both lightly injured. [passage omitted]

IDF Kills 'Terrorist' South of Hebron

TA0811164893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] A wanted terrorist was killed in the village of Bayt Awla south of Hebron this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that early this morning shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near the village. There were no injuries, and the soldiers in the patrol returned fire. During the ensuing searches in the area, three terrorists were discovered hiding in an isolated building in the village. The IDF imposed a curfew on the village and fired antitank missiles at the building. One terrorist was killed in the firing, another was wounded and surrendered. The third terrorist, who escaped, is currently being pursued by the IDF. A Carl Gustav submachine gun and a pistol were found in the building. During the storming of the bui'ding an IDF scout was wounded by a door which fell on him.

The security forces are investigating to determine the identities of the terrorists. It is believed that they are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Rabin To Ask for 'Special' Military Aid Package

TA0511160093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 93 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel will ask the United States for a special $160-million military aid package. This, within the context of congressional legislation, which permits the U.S. Government to give the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] weapons, ammunition, and military equipment from U.S. Army surpluses in Europe.

The total scope of the "drawdown" of military surpluses put into law in October 1990 was $700 million. Within the framework of the plan, Israel has already received helicopters, fighter jets, and ammunition worth $540 million, and the defense establishment now seeks to utilize the remainder.

At the beginning of next week, Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, will discuss the special defense aid package, he is due to raise in his meetings with U.S. officials when he visits Washington soon. The IDF and the Defense Ministry are currently preparing the list of requests that will be submitted to the Americans. Nevertheless, the Administration's replies regarding the requests may only be issued within the next few months, parallel to the progress made in the peace process.

Among the proposals considered by the defense establishment was a request for more Blackhawk assault helicopters, in addition to the 10 helicopters approved for Israel last year. If the Air Force gets the additional helicopters, it will be capable of establishing an entire Blackhawk squadron.

Rabin will decide whether or not to ask the Americans for F-16 fighter jets no longer used by the U.S. Air Force. This comes within a different framework of the special military aid, as part of a plan to deliver U.S. Army surpluses to Israel free of charge. Current U.S. legislation permits granting Israel free of charge any excess [last word in English] to help the IDF with its modernization plans. [passage omitted]

Peres on Regional Economic Conference, Peace With Jordan

TA0811165193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that during the first half of next year a large-scale conference will be convened in which representatives of thousands of private companies worldwide that are interested in investing in the Middle East will participate. Mr. Peres noted that the United States and Japan have agreed to provide the guarantees for the investments. He added that it has been decided that the World Bank will bear responsibility for supervising the spending of aid in the Middle East. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Peres made these remarks during a meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Mr. Peres also said that an agreement has been achieved on a joint tourism package between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and two other countries. He noted that there are no real problems regarding the agreement with Jordan, adding that in his opinion Jordan will agree to sign a full peace agreement with Israel without making it conditional on an agreement with Syria or the Palestinians.

Weizman Confers With Turkish Tourism Minister

TA0511173493 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1540 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, Nov 5 (AA)—Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates who is currently in Israel to participate in the "Turkish Week" in Tel Aviv met Israeli President Ever Weizman on Thursday [4 November] evening.

Ates told after the meeting that to boost economic cooperation between Turkey and Israel, a free-trade accord and an agreement on the prevention of double taxation would be signed.

Ates said Weizman told that Turkey would play an important role in the region adding that both Turkey and Israel supported peace process and struggled to bring peace and stability in the region.

Ates said as a result of his talks, it became apparent that both sides intended to expand regional economic cooperation, particularly after peace was settled in the region.

Both sides principally agreed to sign a technical and cooperation accord before an accord related to free trade.

It was stated that Turkey and Israel might commonly work to increase the joint investment opportunities in the Turkic Republics in central Asia, especially in Kazakhstan.

Official on Palestinian Cooperation Talks in Paris

BR0811164093 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 6-7 Nov 93 p 9

[Interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, by Henri Vernet; place and date not given: "The Palestinians Must Assume Their Responsibilities"—first paragraph is LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS introduction]

[Text] The principal financial backers of Palestinian autonomy discussed yesterday in Paris, in the offices of the World Bank, the urgent needs of the occupied territories and the ways of distributing and coordinating international financial aid. Uri Savir, general director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, believes that it is now essential for the Palestinians to assume their responsibilities.

[Vernet] What has come out of this meeting—the first since the historic agreement signed in Washington between Israel and the PLO—of the ad-hoc committee on aid for Palestinian autonomy?

[Savir] It marks the beginning of cooperation between donors to assist and invest in the Palestinian territories. It was also the occasion to convey to the Palestinians a sense of their responsibilities. It is now up to them to set up modern and democratic institutions in both political and economic spheres. This was the start of cooperation with the Palestinians, and also with the Jordanians. That is a very positive step.

[Vernet] Do you expect an additional effort from the donors? Yasir 'Arafat considers the amounts promised—$600 million for 1994 and $2 billion over three years—to be inadequate.

[Savir] Given the state of the international economy, $600 million is a lot of money. The Palestinians must now also understand that they must set their own priorities, make decisions, and assume responsibilities. They must also find ways of raising funds, by developing industry and tourism and by levying taxes in their territories. It is not enough to simply rely on international aid; you must also utilize your own resources. We, the Israelis, as neighbors, are ready to cooperate, as no economy can develop alone and be self-sufficient. Here in Paris we created this basis for cooperation.

[Vernet] Has the PLO set up the necessary instruments to coordinate and distribute the international aid?

[Savir] It is in the process of doing so. The Palestinians, with help from the World Bank, and also within the framework of a bilateral Israeli-Palestinian committee which will meet in Paris as from 15 November, will establish the necessary institutions. But it is still too soon to say exactly what form they will take.

[Vernet] Regarding the breakthrough revealed yesterday with Jordan, did you discuss in Paris any concrete projects for economic cooperation with the Jordanians?

[Savir] It is clear that we have common interests and that there is much work to be done in the political and economic spheres. What is happening now in the Arab world is that, since the Israeli- Palestinian agreement, our neighbors are beginning to realize where the right choices lie. They understand that the only alternative is to move toward peace or remain politically and economically in the past. Jordan has always shown an interest in regional stability. The fact that we are now working together with the Palestinians and the Jordanians on joint projects is of fundamental importance.

Japanese Aid Mission for Palestinians Arrives

OW0711043193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, Nov. 7 KYODO—A foreign aid mission from Japan arrived in Israel on Saturday [6 November] to study measures to release 200 million dollars in aid for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

During its stay in Israel until Wednesday, the Japanese delegation will tour the Gaza strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and hold talks with Palestinian representatives and Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, Japanese officials said.

The talks are expected to focus on how to utilize Japan's two-year, 200 million dollar aid package for the Palestinians in their homeland following the historic peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The mission is led by Toshinori Shigeie, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, and includes senior officials of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Labor Group Leader Assesses Election Results

BR0811145793 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 5 Nov 93 p11

[Interview with Eli Dayan, leader of the Labor group in the Israeli Knesset, by Umberto de Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "'Jerusalem Must Not Be Another Belfast'"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] "Jerusalem has suffered a heavy blow, but that will not make us challenge the strategic option for dialogue with the PLO." This was stated by Eli Dayan, leader of the Labor group in the Knesset, and one of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's closest aides.

[De Giovannangeli] How do you assess the municipal election results, and what repercussions could they have on the Labor government's future?

[Dayan] The deepest wound, with the greatest political implications, is the vote in Jerusalem, which could have a negative impact on future talks with the PLO. Be that as it may, the government will continue its policy of dialogue, in the hope that the new mayor will not take any rash steps that would obstruct the road to peace.

[De Giovannangeli] The percentage of people who actually voted was the lowest in Israel's history, and according to leading political analysts, the abstention mainly penalized the left. Do you share this assessment?

[Dayan] Certainly. There are many reasons, both political and "technical": For instance, the fact that the election was held on a normal working day had a very negative impact on the results. And to think that it was I, together with Avraham Poraz de Meretz, who wanted this, to save the state 400 million shekels. Apart from that, there was the huge mobilization of right wing forces, unusual in municipal elections: The extremists and the Likud saw this as an opportunity for a "grand revenge" against the Rabin-'Arafat agreement. Our voters did not have the same view of Tuesday's elections. Hence the low turnout.

[De Giovannangeli] Jerusalem's status is one of the most difficult problems to resolve in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. How will the transfer of power from a Labor mayor to a Likud mayor affect the negotiations?

[Dayan] There is an almost total national consensus in Israel with regard to the solution of the Jerusalem problem: The city must remain united under Israeli sovereignty. The point is that the election result could seriously jeopardize, and perhaps disrupt, the delicate balances between the two communities, for which Teddy Kollek worked for years, thus sparing Jerusalem the same fate as Belfast or Beirut. Let us hope that the Likud leaders will be wise enough not to eliminate the policy of coexistence that characterized the Labor administration of the city. Unfortunately, Ehud Olmel's first statements allow little scope for optimism.

[De Giovannangeli] Does Kollek's defeat not also point to a more general difficulty on the part of the Labor Party in rejuvenating its leadership?

[Dayan] The fact is that Teddy Kollek should have retired exactly when he planned to do so; that is, a year and half ago, with a positive end to his extraordinary achievement, and granted someone else the chance to work over a similar space of time to succeed in gaining the confidence of Jerusalem's citizens. This did not happen, and this lack of change had a negative effect on Tuesday's vote. More generally, the political lesson that we must learn from the municipal elections is that the left is defeated when it lacks the support of the kibbutzim and the Arab population. And this applies above all in local elections, where the relationship between candidate and voter is crucial. In this regard we must work much harder in the future to identify which candidates are most convincing at the personal level.

[De Giovannangeli] Could the fact that the Likud Party still maintains strong power at the municipal level not cause serious difficulties in the implementation of the Washington accords?

[Dayan] That is not our main worry. What is really obstructing the peace process now is the absence of a strong and cohesive coalition in the Knesset. If we succeed, as we hope, in restoring the "Shas" within the coalition and perhaps in extending it to another religious party, we will be able to continue our work. Otherwise, there is every probability that we will have to hold an early election within a few months.

[De Giovannangeli] The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Taba to implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho have come up against their first obstacle, while resumption of negotiations with Syria does not appear to be close. Are these "accidents along the way," or are they strategic differences?

[Dayan] Where the PLO is concerned, it is only an "accident along the way" which we will overcome in a short time. It is not our intention to come down hard on the Palestinians, only to defend Israeli lives. We will respect the undertaking we gave in Washington: By April we will complete the redeployment of our troops, confining them to areas where there are Israeli settlements. And that will only be temporary, for five years. In the case of Syria and, above all, of Jordan, I would not be too pessimistic. Public statements and official meetings are one thing, but "underground diplomacy" is quite another, far more effective. And its wheels are busy churning away. In a short time it may lead to the same results as we achieved with the Palestinians.

Jordanians Head For Polls as Voting Begins

JN0811072893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Voting opened across the kingdom at this hour in general elections to choose Jordan's 12th parliament.

More than 1.2 million eligible voters began heading to polling stations at 7 AM throughout the kingdom in sunny weather.

Five hundred and thirty-four candidates from 20 widely diverse parties are competing for the 80-member Lower House of Parliament. At the final count, 534 candidates, including three women, are running in the kingdom's eight governorates. The following is a report by 'Id Batarisah:

[Begin recording] More than 1.2 million Jordanians go to the polls today to elect an 80-member Lower House of Parliament. Balloting opened about half an hour ago in all centers throughout the kingdom and will close at 7 PM. The final tally is expected to be announced early tomorrow.

A total of 534 candidates, including three women, are running in 20 constituencies nationwide. About 80.15 percent of the 1.5 million registered voters have collected cards to cast ballots in the one-person one-vote elections.

The Interior Ministry has put some final preparations to ensure a smooth balloting, and the processing of results will come through at a press center especially set up at the Royal Cultural Center.

Jordan Radio and Television will carry live transmission to cover the election process.

On the eve of the elections day, his majesty the king had said that taking part in voting is a national duty, and urged voters to choose the most eligible representatives. Reiterating that the elections will be fair and democratic, his majesty called for voters to uphold the higher national interests, safeguard national unity, and show a high degree of discipline.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has also said the government will stay neutral and unbiased to any party against another. The interior minister has appealed for heavy turnout, and urged voters to maintain order. [end recording]

Prime Minister on Progress of Elections

JN0811101693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0856 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the Interior Ministry in Amman by Ibrahim Shahzadah in the studio—live]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Good morning, Your Excellency the Prime Minister.

[Al-Majali] Good morning.

[Shazadah] As reported by the news agency, you cast your vote early this morning when the ballot boxes opened in the township of al-Yarud in the al-Karak Governorate. We are fortunate to have on the other line the al-Karak governor. What does his excellency the prime minister say on this day? What can you say about the preparations made by the state on this great day?

[Al-Majali] I believe that today is a day of joy for all Jordanians. Today, all Jordanian citizens have the opportunity to vote to elect a member of the next parliament. This esteemed parliament will be responsible for drafting the legal and legislative policy of the homeland for the next four years, especially since Jordan and the entire Arab region are witnessing the most critical days in their life. We must cast our vote in order to choose the best so that we can proceed along with his majesty the king, the leader of this march, toward glory and power and so that we will be the decision makers and not allow the decision to be imposed on us from outside our region.

[Shazadah] Your Excellency, back to preparations and your assessment of them.

[Al-Majali] In fact, I visited the Interior Ministry yesterday. Today, I can say from the Interior Ministry that I am full of pride and admiration for the high level of precision and advanced modern technology employed as well as the spirit displayed by all those working in this institution so that these elections will be honest, clean, quick, and easy for all citizens in the hope that they will take place as quickly as possible and on the best of levels.

[Shahzadah] You cast your vote at al-Yarud in al-Karak. How was the voting and how did you view the measures taken there?

[Al-Majali] Actually, I was registered a long time ago in the village to which I belong and in which I take pride. Therefore, I went there this morning and cast my vote just like the other citizens. I saw citizens queuing in an orderly and quiet manner. It is really gladdening to note that we have reached such a degree of discipline. We hope this will prevail in all our regions. This is what we hope for and expect. We hope that these elections will proceed in the best way that can be seen in any developed country.

[Shazadah] God willing, Your Excellency. Thank you for giving us the time to hold this interview with you direct from the Interior Ministry. Thank you, Your Excellency.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

Interior Minister: Voting 'Running Smoothly'

JN0811104293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Voters are showing up in large numbers across the kingdom in general elections to choose a new Lower

House of Parliament. Minister of the Interior Salamah Hammad said voting is running smoothly in the nearly 2,900 polling places which opened their doors at 7 AM. He said none of the 534 contenders for the 80 Lower House seats has withdrawn.

Radio Jordan reporters said a heavy turnout has been shown in Amman's third and fifth polling districts. A similar turnout has been reported in Ma'daba where 4,000 voters have so far cast their ballots. In the districts of al-Zarqa', Jarash, and al-Balqa', voters told Radio Jordan reporters they were satisfied with the polling process and are exercising their free voting rights.

While casting his vote in the al-Karak Governorate, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali voiced pride in practicing his voting right. He urged fellow Jordanians to choose the most eligible candidates to represent them in parliament. Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar expressed confidence of a high turnout. In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Abu-Nuwar emphasized that the government has been fully nonaligned in the campaign. He pointed out to the fact that the Information Ministry through the news agency, the radio, and television has not sided with any of the contenders.

Polling stations will close at 7 PM. First results are expected late today, but complete returns will not be known until tomorrow morning.

Minister on Last-Minute Election Withdrawals

JN0711203493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Interview with Jordanian Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad by Jordan Television Director Ibrahim Shahzadah in Amman on 7 November—recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] As part of the last-minute preparations on the communications network and the microwave network, we are glad to have with us His Excellency Mr. Salamah Hammad, the minister of interior, from the Ministry of Interior.

Your excellency the minister, good evening.

[Hammad] Good evening, brother Ibrahim.

[Shahzadah] A few moments ago, through this network, we saw His Majesty King Husayn visit the Ministry of Interior. What took place during this visit?

[Hammad] As you know, credit should go to his majesty the leader, the sponsor of the march, in terms of all measures taking place in this country. The event we are preparing for, tomorrow's elections, is an event taking place under the auspices of his majesty the leader. We were honored by His Majesty King Husayn's visit—as well as his sponsorship and directives—in order be reassured of how things are going, to support us, and present his guidance and advice. Thanks be to God, he familiarized himself with all the procedures and preparations that were made and reassured himself of how things are going. We hope we will live up to his expectations.

[Shahzadah] God willing. Your excellency the minister, what is the latest report on the elections in terms of the number of candidates? Did any of the candidates withdraw or not?

[Hammad] Yes, there were some withdrawals today. The candidate Salamah al-Ma'ayitah withdrew from al-Karak as well as Muhammad al- Rawashidah. So, we are now left with 534 candidates who will contest the elections tomorrow.

[Shahzadah] Your excellency the minister, I have in front of me a report, attributed to a news agency, that says that one of the candidates attacked another. What is the truth behind this report?

[Hammad] The truth does not deal with one candidate against another. It deals with two people, probably affiliated to a certain party, who were beaten last night and filed a complaint at the public security department. The issue was referred to the court that has authority in these matters.

[Shahzadah] Would your excellency the minister like to say a final word before the voting process begins tomorrow?

[Hammad] God Almighty helps us. We completed all our administrative preparations. And now, our hopes are pinned on the brothers the citizens throughout Jordan. We hope that they will show their love to and faith in Jordan and head for the ballot boxes tomorrow morning in order to elect their representatives in the Parliament. We also hope that they will be an example for democracy and good citizenship and show the true image of Jordan to the outside. Jordan is for all of us. Jordan is our country. We sacrifice our souls for Jordan. Jordan deserves that we spend one hour of our time in an organized, secure, and trustful manner that is full of love, God willing.

[Shahzadah] Thanks to His Excellency Salamah Hammad, the minister of interior. Thank you your excellency the minister.

[Hammad] Welcome brother Ibrahim. Thank you.

Prime Minister: Elections To Be 'Honest, Fair'

JN0711120893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said: At the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, we are determined that tomorrow's parliamentary elections will be honest, fair, and free, and will not be biased in favor of any person, party, or any side over another.

During a visit today to the Housing and Urban Development Establishment, where he attended the weekly meeting of the Planning Committee, the prime minister

said he hoped the elections would produce a parliament that truly represents the ambitions of the Jordanian people.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the economic situation in the kingdom, and expected a rise in economic growth. He called for benefiting from this growth and for employing it in the service of the national economy in a positive manner, and for building a production base and strong infrastructure.

King Asks Voters To Shun 'False Slogans'

JN0611150693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said true good citizenship requires all of us to exercise his right to elect those who will represent us in the House of Representatives. Failure to carry out this duty means failing to carry out a sacred national duty, he said.

His majesty continued: If we are concerned about carrying out our duty by exercising our right to report to the voting centers—since this is a sacred duty—an even more sacred duty is to refer to our consciences and minds when electing the best of this homeland's sons, so they will be real representatives of us, faithful to the interests of this cherished homeland.

His majesty stressed the importance of commitment to the homeland's supreme interest, of safeguarding our national unity, of enjoying the spirit of discipline, and of preserving the achievements of this cherished homeland. His majesty also stressed the need for voters to select those who are known for their awareness, purity, honesty, sincerity, and affiliation with the soil of this pure homeland. He stressed the need for us to have a high degree of eagerness and wit, so we will not be affected by clamorous voices, by glamorous and false slogans, or by words that are apparently true but whose intent is otherwise.

These directives by his majesty came in a Royal speech addressed to the one Jordanian family during his reception of the founding members of the Center for the Studies of Freedom and Democracy and Human Rights at the Royal Hashemite Court.

King Addresses Human Rights Center

JN0611174993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1603 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan to members of the Constituent Assembly of the Center for Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights Studies; in the Royal Court in Amman on 6 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters: God's peace and blessings be upon you. I am pleased to meet you today and to warmly welcome you to your house [the Royal Court], the house of all Jordanians from various origins, to discuss together the affairs of the Center for Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights Studies. We wanted this center to serve as a minaret for all free men and women of the nation, and as a haven to which they will flock from all directions. We also wanted it to serve as a genuine reservoir to enrich our democratic march with the studies and researches it conducts, and with the tasks it shoulders to open new prospects for that march and pave ways for it to spread in the broad horizons and establish itself in the consciousness and mind of people. This is happening at a time when many free men and women of the nation are suffering suppression, denial of freedom, pursuit, or alienation at the hands of one party or another.

The world around us is standing at the threshold of a new phase of civilization, whose dimensions are not yet specified. However, on the surface one can see omens of civil and ethnic wars that reflect the tendencies of hegemony, tutelage, and encroachment on the individual's rights and dignity in various parts of this world. This fact confronts us all with our responsibilities and established beliefs about the need to protect the individual's freedom, dignity, and rights, regardless of his color, sex, and creed. Here, I stress my full belief that not a single people can face the challenges and leave the darkness of suppression, and ignorance to the lights of knowledge and certainty, without freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

I recall, dear brothers, that during my first meeting with you I said that the message of this center, as we see it, is to bolster Jordan's democratic experience and unleash the energies of intellectuals and talented people to build the complete model of political, social, and cultural democracy. The center will, consequently, develop clear visions of a future phase, from which we can launch a comprehensive Arab movement that can resume the Arab renaissance, which was and still is the focal point for the message of the Greater Arab Revolt.

I wish to express my admiration and pride in your good efforts to complete the draft bill for this center. I also wish to affirm to you that the road ahead of us is still too long. Duty calls on us to continue our efforts with a firm belief and an unwavering determination to turn the idea of, and plan for, this center into a tangible reality that will become an effective and influential part of our life, positions, and vision of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

As I have said earlier, we are living in a time in which we see the individual's rights, freedom, and dignity targeted by threat and aggression. It suffices to mention here the Israeli authorities' decision to consider the Muslim sacred sites in Jerusalem to be part of Israeli territory, and placing these sites under Israel's sovereignty. Is there a harsher or uglier form of encroachment on the individual's rights, freedom, and dignity than confiscating his sacred sites and places of prayer? I have said more than once before that the sacred sites and the places of prayer should not be under the sovereignty of anyone but God almighty, and that these places should be a refuge for all

believers in God and followers of the three monotheistic religions. I have also said that no one has the right to claim exclusive ownership or sovereignty over them, since no law can approve that.

Brothers and sisters: Perhaps it is a fortunate coincidence to meet today as the homeland prepares for the House of Representatives' elections that will be held the day after tomorrow, with God's help. I am taking this good opportunity to send, through you, to each brother and sister citizen in their various places, my greetings, my appreciation, and my pride in all of them as comrades in the march of a lifetime, hard work, and struggle.

They have not hesitated to carry out any duty or make any sacrifice. They have bowed to no one but God. From the position of a responsible and experienced brother, I tell them that true good citizenship requires all of us to exercise his right to elect those who will represent him in the House of Representatives. Failure to exercise this right is a failure to carry out a sacred national duty, and a relinquishment of both the homeland's right and its supreme interests, as well as negativism that does not befit our known chivalry and initiative to carry out duty with honor and manliness.

While being concerned about carrying out our duty by exercising our right to report to the voting and election centers—since this is a sacred national duty—an even more sacred duty is to refer to our consciences and minds when electing the best of this homeland's sons, so they will be our real representatives, faithful to the interests of this homeland that is cherished by all of us. On this basis, our choice must be free of whims and above personal and small, transient purposes. It must stem from the sense of national responsibility that places the homeland's interest above all interests and considerations.

While acting in all this from a commitment to the homeland's supreme interest, from preservation of our national unity, and from adherence to our democratic march, all this must be reflected in our conduct during the voting process as we enjoy the spirit of discipline and good ethics. We must be concerned about what this cherished homeland was founded on, in terms of the spirit of tolerance, fraternity, cohesion, wisdom, foresight, rationality, amity, and mercy.

Let us proceed, enlightened and blessed by God. Let us select from among us those who are known for their awareness, purity, honesty, sincerity, and affiliation with the soil of this pure homeland. Let us have a high degree of eagerness and wit, so we will not be affected by clamorous voices, by glamorous and false slogans, or by words that are apparently true but are actually intended otherwise.

It goes without saying that we emphasize to each of my free Jordanian brothers that these elections will be just, as they were the previous time, namely, a model of honesty, freedom, and fairness. I guarantee this for them, just as I did before. Thus, let us proceed to our sacred national duty with reassured souls, peaceful minds, and vigilance. Let our lofty people participate in this democratic day. Let us be an example and model to be followed in our conduct and in the concern for the achievements of this homeland which we, and our forefathers before, built with patience, toiling, and sacrifices. Let us also be concerned for this homeland's promising future, God willing. Let us be as the nation expects us. The nation is looking forward to our march with hope, good wishes, and admiration, which we deserve with God's help.

May God grant us all success for the good of our homeland and nation, and may he guide our steps on the path of good and success. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Islamists' Prospects in Upcoming Elections Assessed

JN0711104493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 93 pp 1,3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, might be able to win the same or even higher number of seats in Monday's elections as they had in the 11th Parliament, but Jordan's Islamists are unlikely to retain the same influence they had in the 1989-1993 legislature, analysts and observers say.

The introduction in August of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral law was largely expected to alter the shape of the next Parliament by preventing the kind of alliances and voting monoeuvers that enabled the Brotherhood to win 23 seats in 1989, along with some other 10 supporters and sympathisers.

The movement's political adroitness and its ability to adapt swiftly to the change, however, have rendered that expectation largely inaccurate, the analysts said.

The IAF will fare well in these elections if only because it has "an awesome organisation," said Mustafa Hamarinah, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

"If they have the kind of organisation that enables them to transfer votes from one candidate to another, then they might maintain their numerical strength in Parliament as before, Dr. Hamarinah said.

In terms of organisation, the IAF is said to be the most active, well-equipped and highly-organised political group in the country. The movement's quick and relatively efficient manner in taking part in the registration process, in collecting cards and in providing transportation facilities to its supporters to attend its rallies is a crucial factor in giving it an edge over other political parties and certainly independents, analysts say.

The IAF, some observers believe, is also using other tactics to secure votes in districts or constituencies where it fielded more than one candidate.

The front is believed to have divided their supporters in favour of one candidate in a certain area and in favour of another in a different area within the same constituency or district, as it is the case in Amman's Second District, for example, or in al-Zarqa' and in al-Balqa'.

There is also the distribution by gender; that is, women voting for one candidate and men voting for another candidate to ensure that both candidates will secure around the same number of votes, which, the front hopes, will be enough to gain victory.

The Islamists' organisational efficiency is also reflected in the manner in which the IAF distributed its candidates in the different constituencies. In certain districts (such as Amman's First and Third districts, Jarash, 'Ajlun, al-Mafraq, Northern Bedouins, and al-Tafilah) it has fielded only one candidate. But it has four candidates in what is considered as its strongholds, such as Amman's Fifth District, al-Balqa' and Irbid as well as al-Karak. It has no candidates in al-Ramtha, and the Northern Bedouins and Central Bedouins constituencies.

"The Islamists will be losing a minimum number of votes as opposed to all other political groupings and independents," said Talib 'Awad, a researcher in the al-Urdun al-Jadid Research Centre. "If they have good organisation, they will concentrate their votes on powerful candidates who have good chances of winning."

In addition to its organisational capabilities, observers believe, the IAF have benefitted from the recent measures adopted by the government vis-a-vis the elections. The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system was seen as being used for example by the government to lessen the strength of Islamists in the next Parliament. The argument that the government is targetting Islamists is used by many IAF candidates in their rallies and campaigns to attract sympathy votes.

The argument is augmented by the IAF's stand against peace negotiations with Israel which could also be expected to attract votes from opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal.

The IAF has also been using a government ban on public rallies (which was overturned on Oct. 28), the Ministry of Interior's initial rejection of the candidacy of Bassam al-'Umush, a former professor at the University of Jordan (who secured the highest number of votes in elections to the IAF's executive bureau) and the transfer of government employees (some of whom are IAF members) from their places of work to other districts on the charges that they had illegally campaigned for certain candidates.

Moreover, the split in tribal votes witnessed in many constituencies will also be a factor in favour of the IAF.

The Brotherhood's experience in political work, unlike most other political parties, and its long record in charitable action and its influence among government and educational institutions are all major factors playing in its favour.

However, in Monday's polls, where the IAF is facing stiff competition from other political groups as well as from independent Islamists, it is difficult for the Brotherhood to gain the same influence it had in the 11th Parliament.

The IAF, experts say, will have to concentrate its votes on specific candidates at the expense of its supporters from the Islamic stream or from other affiliations. This will consequently reduce the front's chances of bringing more supporters to Parliament.

In addition, the IAF will have to face strong competition from independent Islamists and will have to eliminate competition between IAF candidates themselves in the same district.

"If the Islamists' influence is lessened in parliament, then this will be a victory for all other political groupings in the country," one expert said. "But if IAF is able to retain the same number of seats, then this will be a blow to the change in the election law and all other procedures taken to weaken their chances."

Al-Majali on Reported Husayn-Peres Meeting

NC0611191593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Interviewed by our correspondent in Amman Tawfiq Jazulit, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stressed that Israeli media reports on preparations for a Jordanian- Israeli agreement are unfounded.

[Begin al-Majali recording] First, I would like to tell you that Israel continually releases what are called trial balloons. We, the Arabs, and sometimes the media, get distracted by this. We are passing through a very special and delicate time—namely, the elections. Therefore, I am not surprised by this.

The other point is the meeting [between King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres]: As head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, I have met and negotiated with the Jews for a long time. The head of the Israeli delegation was the general secretary of the Israeli Government; that is, a rank little lower than a minister. His Royal Highness Prince Hasan also met [Peres]. Such meetings, therefore, are now not at all frightening. But some people still want them to be. Had the meeting taken place, it would have been announced without caution; there is nothing to be frightened of. Such a meeting may take place in the future, especially if needed for peace measures. [end recording]

Media on Alleged Husayn-Peres Meeting

JN0611141593

[Editorial Report] As of filing time, official Jordanian media have not been observed to either report on an alleged meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and Israel's Shim'on Peres, or to carry statements by Jordanian officials confirming or denying such a meeting.

The English-language daily the JORDAN TIMES is the only Jordanian source to have reported on the meeting. On pages 1 and 5 of its 6 November issue, the paper carries a 1,000-word combined news agencies report on activities dealing with the peace process at the end of which it says the following: "Israeli media reported Friday Mr. Peres met secretly with His Majesty Husayn on Tuesday to discuss peace details of a future peace treaty.

"Reports of the November 2 meeting said it was somewhere on the southern Israeli-Jordanian frontier in the Gulf of Aqaba.

"Spokesmen for Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declined comment on the reports.

"Israel radio said the purported discussions centered on the principles of an agreement for peace and economic cooperation.

"The radio added: However, Jordan will not take the plunge and sign a peace agreement before Israel reaches a similar agreement with Syria.

"In Amman, officials said King Husayn had spent several days in al-'Aqabah recently, but they refused to confirm or deny a meeting with Mr. Peres."

The only other possibly indirect reference to the meeting is the editorial of the Arabic language daily AL-RA'Y in its 6 November issue, which states : "Everything that is being said about meetings here and there, or about a public or secret meeting is natural. This is the stage of preparations which started in Madrid, continued in Washington, and which is still going on. It is natural that what used to be taboo was considered as such because our enemy was not ready to accept international legitimacy."

Dialogue With Israelis Defended

JN0611131993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "In Search of Peace"]

[Text] The Arabs did not go to Madrid on a tourist trip so they could be near the ruins of Granada, Cordoba, and Seville for a few hours. They did not go to Washington to stay at its hotels and visit the U.S. State Department for several hours a day. We went to Madrid and then to Washington because the international community told us it would be committed to international legitimacy and made us promises to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, and because the entire world has entered an era where all aspire to peace and not to war, to justice and not to injustice, to stability and not to chaos, and to security and not to fear. From this premise, our aspiration for peace is legitimate, our efforts to attain it is a pan-Arab and humanitarian duty, and our readiness to accept it depends on whether it will be a just peace that our future generations will accept as His Majesty King Husayn has affirmed for the umpteenth time.

We have the right to seek the peace and the security we need, as well as a justice that will make this peace acceptable and security viable. Everything that is being said about meetings here and there, or about a public or secret meeting, is natural. This is the stage of preparations which started in Madrid, continued in Washington, and which is still going on. It is natural that what used to be taboo was considered as such because our enemy was not ready to accept international legitimacy or the abidance by its resolutions and principles, and because the big powers that used to supply it with all it needs were not willing to go back on their support for it and the perpetuation of its occupation and expansion, and on their support for its daily aggression against Arab land and man.

The Jordanians will continue to hold talks with the Israelis. The Syrians will also pursue their talks with the Israelis, and so will the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and the Egyptians. One does not establish peace with a ghost he does not see or does not wish to see. We have a real enemy which occupies our land, usurps our rights, and with which we pass through an era in the history of this world where many seek to extinguish its fires, contain its problems, and settle its crises. We now know that the peace that will be attained will not be all good and will not be all victories. However, what could make it as such is our ability to triumph in the many fields in which we can do so. The world has shown us over the past four decades of the Arab-Israeli conflict that it is the guardian of the enemy's strength, arrogance, and superiority and that it keeps us weak and divided, and deprives us of the requisites of strength. We would not be exaggerating if we were to say that our real war with our enemy will begin outside the trenches and from the very first moment peace is established in the region.

Amman Rejects U.S. Foreign Debt Write-Off Offer

JN0711092893 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 7 Nov 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Jordan has again rejected a U.S. offer to write off a total of $6 billion in foreign debt in return for signing a peace agreement with Israel, a responsible Jordanian source told AKHBAR AL-USBU'.

The source was answering a question by the paper on the beginning of the meetings of the Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. technical committee for economic affairs, held in Paris late last week to discuss regional economic cooperation.

The source said the meetings, the first of their kind, failed completely. The Israelis, however, deemed the very meetings a great success, even though nothing at all has been achieved.

The source added that during these meetings, Jordan turned down all Israeli proposals for launching joint ventures, noting that it is premature to talk about "normalizing" relations and Jordanian- Israeli cooperation before a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis is reached on all tracks.

The source said Jordan refused to bargain over its national stands in return for Western aid. Consequently, Jordan turned down a U.S. offer to pay back a large part of its foreign debt and contact other creditors to cancel the remaining part.

The source pointed out that Jordan has a constant position that rejects normalization, cooperation, or any other partial, unilateral solution. Jordan has also made it a condition that the brothers in Syria and Lebanon must approve any solution agreed upon in the future.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the U.S. Administration, surprised by Jordan's unequivocal rejection, has decided to put pressure on Syria to push it to offer concessions in the interest of Israel to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. The reason for this is to enable the Jordanian-Israeli track to make further progress, given that only an agenda was signed and an initial meeting of an economic technical committee was held without achieving anything.

Al-Hirawi Concludes Visit to Italy, Vatican City

Holds News Conference

NC0611070093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi is scheduled to meet with Italian President Oscar Scalfaro and address the Food and Agriculture Organization conference in Rome today. Al-Hirawi met Pope John Paul II in the Vatican yesterday and invited him to visit Lebanon. He asked that the Vatican not establish diplomatic relations with Israel before a comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East.

At a news conference after meeting the pope, al-Hirawi said: We responded to the peace invitation to Madrid because we are advocates of peace not war. Nearly two years after the invitation and after attending 11 rounds of negotiations in Washington, we have not moved a (?step) forward.

The president added: We are demanding what is right, which can be summarized in two points. 1) Implementation of Resolution 425 and Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territories together with our commitment not to fire a single shot from our land; and 2) We await a comprehensive peace that includes all the other countries. You will see that we are willing to sign a peace treaty after we have seen the signatures of all the others. Lebanon will be the last country to sign a peace treaty.

Al-Hirawi said: The Lebanese state has a distinctive character and may in the future have a distinctive role, not only in the Middle East but both in East and West. I am the president of the whole of Lebanon, not just a Lebanese faction. The issue of the Christians is a Lebanese internal matter. As for the talk that I have come to Rome and the Vatican to defend one particular party against another, if this were true, I would have to resign the presidency immediately. I am the president of a state, not a faction.

Returns to Beirut

NC0711172493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Beirut at 1620 today at the end of an official visit to Italy and the Vatican. [passage omitted]

Comments on Trip, Peace Talks

NC0711213493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Report on an interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by a Lebanon Television correspondent during al-Hirawi's plane trip from Rome to Beirut on 7 November]

[Text] President al-Hirawi said: Ever since I assumed the Presidency, I have looked beyond the Lebanese borders and aspired to create a Lebanese presence in every society and at every conference. I have wanted to attract all friendly and fraternal countries and make them come to our country and hold their international and regional conferences there. Thank God, we have had what we wanted. With regard to the events of the past three days, I can say with total frankness that the Lebanese presence at any international forum or organization must be effective. We must not forget that the person who became director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] is a Lebanese national. We appreciate him and are proud of him. As you have seen, he has left a distinguished mark on this organization. He has only 50 days to go as FAO director-general. He is fully appreciated and respected. You have seen this.

It was for this reason that I decided to come and deliver the lecture to the FAO yesterday morning. I came in answer to an invitation to inaugurate the Lebanon Hall at the FAO Headquarters, and to make the world remember that Lebanon still exists. In addition, my visit was personal in view of the friendship between me and the director-general. Thank God I placed my bets on this person more than 20 years ago. I am proud that my wager was correct.

Asked if, after Mr. Edouard Saouma leaves his post at the FAO, aid from this organization to Lebanon will continue at the same level, al-Hirawi replied that this depends on the agriculture minister and on our many friends in the world.

Al-Hirawi added: I do not believe that the FAO's aid to many Lebanese projects will remain at the same level because Dr. Saouma's presence at the organization had considerable influence in promoting these projects. We will continue our efforts and we will wait until tomorrow [8 November] to see who the new director-general will be. When this happens, I will be able to give a frank answer to your question.

President al-Hirawi was asked: You have met with the Italian president and discussed bilateral ties and the peace process with him. Do you believe that Italy's role is still supportive of the peace process, particularly after the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

He replied: Italy is an integral part of the European Community. What I asked of the Italian president can never isolate him or his government from what is happening in the EEC. I urged him to maintain as one of his objectives the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. As to the other negotiating tracks, everyone knows who the sole mighty power in the world is.

Asked about his 40-minute private meeting with Pope John Paul II—a bit longer than the scheduled time—and if he would elaborate on the talks, President al-Hirawi said: What I told Pope John Paul II is now his own. Suffice it to say that a communique was released at the Vatican on our talks. I am sorry, but I cannot divulge anything that does not belong to me. That belongs to his holiness. Regarding the question about my invitation to

his holiness to visit Lebanon and his decision to wait for the appropriate time to visit, I hope he will visit Lebanon. But I cannot divulge the views we exchanged about the Middle East and other areas. I told you aboard the airplane on our way to Rome what I was going to request regarding the region. I made my request, and I hope he will respond it. This is all I can say.

Al-Hirawi was asked whether his meeting with Pope John Paul II coincided with moves by Christian organizations to find a national role and other leaders advocating independent decisionmaking. He was asked: Is this a coincidence, or has there been talk of a Christian position that can be spelled out. President al-Hirawi replied: Sorry. As I have said before some reporters, I cannot talk about a Christian or Muslim position. I am a president of a republic for all Lebanese. What happened during my absence concerns those who met and, at the same time, those who boycotted the meeting. I maintain that if the meeting was aimed at unifying the national Lebanese views on all regional and international issues, I am for it. But if the meeting addresses private issues, I maintain that I am president of the Lebanese Republic and not of a certain faction.

Asked about his views on the Middle East peace process in the coming stage, particularly in the wake of the recent developments, President al-Hirawi said: It is regrettable that when I left Lebanon there was nothing new in the region. I heard that certain U.S. officials will visit the region. I hope that the U.S. officials will visit the area soon because we are proceeding from the principle that any peace or any agreement will not yield results if it is not collective. If the peace or the agreement is not collective, the results will be negative. We went to the peace conference because we are advocates of peace and hope that peace will be reached by all countries in the region and not some of them. A separate peace in one part will not survive.

Asked whether there are signs of an agreement on a joint military committee, President al-Hirawi said: Nothing has been proposed to us so far. If there is any proposal on a military committee, it will be part of the political committee or the political team entrusted by the government to negotiate. We do not intend to send a military delegation if there is no declaration of intent about an Israeli withdrawal at a specific time. If there is such a declaration, then there will be a role for a military committee. If the situation remains the same, we will have no military committee or political delegation. We are waiting patiently for this time to come.

Israelis Kill Resistance Man; Gunboats Inspect Ship

NC0211194293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Security sources report that a resistance man was killed by Israeli tank fire today when a resistance group tried to infiltrate the border strip in the Sujud area. The sources said soldiers on an Israeli tank saw a resistance group trying to enter the strip and fired 10 artillery shells on it.

The South Lebanese Army [SLA] artillery in al-Qantarah fired three 120-mm shells at the outskirts of Qabrikha this afternoon, while the Israeli forces raked the Jabal Humayd vicinity with large- and medium-caliber machine guns. The Israeli forces also targeted Wadi al-Saluqi with three 155-mm shells and raked Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi al-Hujayr from their post in Tallusah.

This afternoon, Israeli gunboats cruised off the coast from Tyre to al-Rashidiyah and al-Naqurah. They intercepted and inspected a merchant ship off Tyre for two hours.

Radio Details Mortar Attacks, Tank Deployments

NC0611074693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] In retaliation for repeated Israeli acts of aggression, the Islamic resistance intensively shelled Zionist enemy concentrations at Sujud Post, inflicting several casualties on the personnel manning the post. An agent militia [South Lebanese Army—SLA] source confirmed that two Zionist soldiers were wounded in a mortar attack on Sujud. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded when the same post came under artillery fire.

The occupation forces bombarded Iqlim al-Tuffah region, particularly al-Luwayzah and Mlita towns. The bombardment intensified in the afternoon, when approximately 60 shells fell in Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. Reports from the south indicated that the Zionist enemy forces requested support from (al-Shurayki) artillery emplacement in al-Khiyam, which directed a concentrated bombardment at the area's villages with scores of 155-mm shells. The agent Lahd post in al-Rayhan took part in the bombardment, using 120-mm shells. This was accompanied by intense enemy helicopter flights over the area.

Amid this volatile situation, the enemy continued to strengthen their military forces in the occupied strip. Deployment of scores of tanks in the al-Tayyibah triangle has been reported. In the eastern sector, reports indicate that the enemy forces carried out aggressions against the citizens there.

Hizballah Radio Reports Military Activities in South

NC0711091493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Until the early hours of the morning the south continued to be exposed to hostile shelling. All day yesterday the Israeli occupation forces and its Lahdist forces continued their attacks on the liberated towns and hamlets in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the villages of al-Nabatiyah and Tyre. Enemy foot and mechanized patrols were observed moving in the direction of the occupied border strip.

Our correspondent in the south reported raking and shelling operations from the positions of the agents in 'Alman in the direction of the al-Litani River basin last evening. There were flares over Wadi al-Hujayr, Frun, and al-Ghanduriyah at around 1930. Just after 2000, some enemy foot patrol activities were observed around Hula accompanied by helicopter flights over al-Shaqif castle and Yuhmur.

At 2110, some shelling from Jabal al-Humayyid was noticed in the valley between Haris and Tibnin. The occupation forces fired from their positions in Tallusah Wadi al-Saluqi at around 2130. After that, the occupation forces fired a number of artillery shells of various calibers at al-Luwayzah and the eastern part of Qabrikha.

During the early hours today, six shells fell on ('Iqmatah) from enemy positions in al-Rayhan. Two shells also hit Mlita. The region between Mlita and (Nab' al-Tasi) came under shelling from the hostile al-Rayhan position.

The Resistance men yesterday detonated explosive devices under a Lahdist patrol accompanied by an engineering unit in an area of Jazzin. A Zionist military source confirmed that a Lahdist was wounded during the shelling of enemy and agent positions in the occupied strip.

Further on Artillery Exchanges

NC0711204493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The occupation enemy forces in al-Zaffatah resumed their bombardment of Iqlim al-Tuffah with 155-mm field guns at 2030 this evening, targeting the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, and al-Luwayzah.

Earlier at 1900, resistance fighters attacked the al-Qantarah post of the occupation forces with rockets and mortar fire. The occupation forces shelled Tulin and its outskirts, damaging the houses of Muhammad Yusuf Harb and 'Ali Husayn Hammud. They also raked Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, al-Shumariyah, Tulin, and the al-Litani river basin with heavy machine-gun fire. The resistance retaliated by bombarding the enemy positions. The artillery duels lasted until 2000 today.

Labor Minister Views Syrian Presence

NC0611120393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has affirmed that the detention of some people is not for political reasons but security reasons. He pointed out that Lebanon cannot be ruled in a despotic fashion, because its peculiar demographic composition makes democracy a necessity.

In an interview carried on Radio Free Lebanon's "Dialogue With an Official" program, al-Amin emphasized that it is not our policy to suppress liberties or persecute some political groups in the country. He explained that the people in power today might become the opposition in the future, and therefore they wish to maintain civil liberties.

Al-Amin said that the reorganization of the Lebanese media has been postponed in order to avoid the appearance of a suppression of liberties. He noted, however, that if a law reorganizing the media is passed now, it will not be misunderstood.

Regarding administrative affairs, he said if the current dossier is closed by merely dismissing some employees, we will be implementing an incomplete measure that will misrepresent the government's position. He urged that administrative reform be carried out in full by abolishing the existing administrative system and replacing it with a decentralized system. [passage omitted]

He denied reports that thousands of employees will be dismissed, saying that these thousands are in fact people who never report for duty, are living abroad, or are simply excess staff. He said only some hundreds will be affected, and redundant employees will not be dismissed but will be transferred to the ministry concerned with administrative reform until a final decision on their status is made. [passage omitted]

On the Syrian Army's presence in Lebanon, Minister al-Amin said it is necessary for several reasons, including assistance in returning displaced citizens to their villages. He pointed out that in some villages this is being done cautiously and the Syrian Army's role in maintaining order in such cases is more important than the Lebanese Army's role. He explained that the Lebanese Army might be undermined by clashes with any of the sects while, on the other hand, the Syrian Army has actually clashed with all the sects without provoking a sectarian problem. Al-Amin said that the problem is political and does not lie with the Lebanese Army's weakened military capability.

Al-Amin continued: We still need Syria's political assistance.

Noting that the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon actually constitutes a weak point in Syria's position, he asked: What does Syria gain from its presence in Bhamdun and al-'Awza'i?

He asserted that the Syrian role in Lebanon will continue because all artificial justifications to ban it have failed.

He declared that Syria will always play a special role in Lebanon.

While acknowledging that Syria has dreams with regard to Lebanon, he said: Nevertheless the current Syrian leadership has become famous and important in the region because of its realism, not its dreams.

Al-Amin expressed reservations about the government's ability to build a new, modern state because of the current complicated circumstances in the region and in Lebanon itself.

Remarking that a real fear exists that the Palestinians will be resettled in Lebanon, he said Lebanon cannot settle this issue decisively, and the Lebanese people's opposition to resettlement is not enough to prevent it from happening. He emphasized that Syria has an important role to play in this connection, because if it opposes resettlement, the anti-resettlement front will grow.

He announced: We must not pursue peace negotiations separately from Syria because we might find ourselves isolated and forced to accept resettlement.

Islamic Amal Leader Hits Corruption, U.S. 'Agents'

PM0511155493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Musawi: Sons of Officials Stealing Openly"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Islamic Amal Movement Leader Husayn al-Musawi said during his weekly conference in Ba'labakk yesterday that "a certain group within the Lebanese state has U.S. instructions to complement the Zionist enemy's repeated aggression, as happened during the latest air attack."

He added that "the Americans and their agents in Lebanon have bought most of the Lebanese officials who are now competing with one another in their adoption of negative attitudes toward Lebanon and the Islamic resistance which defends its unity and freedom."

On the administrative purge, he said that "most of those who are supposed to implement it are themselves corrupt. Sons of officials and their henchmen are conducting Mafia operations within most official establishments and openly stealing millions of dollars." He added that he was "all for rectifying conditions in the official departments, but cleanly and justly."

He spoke of "corrupt television stations flooding our society to turn it from a society of resistance to a corrupt and renegade society while the government just looks on like a spectator and does not act to stop that aggression, with even some of its pillars joining in." He urged the people to "rise in defense of their future and honor."

Fadlallah Assails 'Conciliatory' Stance Toward Israel

LD0511204393 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 5, IRNA—Lebanese prominent religious leader, Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said here on Friday [5 November] that any coexistence with the Zionist regime was a disgrace. Speaking at Friday prayer congregation held at Imam Reza (peace be upon him) mosque, southern Beirut he denounced any compromising policy of Arabs towards the Zionist regime. He said that the whole population of racist Jews did not exceed 20 million, but, one billion Muslims and 200 million Arabs are under their threat.

Fadlallah said that the Arabs who do not forgive each other for a few square meters of land and go on war with each other, all of a sudden have inclined to offer Palestine to the usurper and interventionist regime. He also criticized the "ambiguous and conciliatory" stance of the Lebanese Government towards the aggressions of the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon and said, "how can the people have trust in a government which thinks of the enemy's interest rathern than that of its own people?"

When a missile is launched against the Zionists, a wave of criticism and anxiety covers the country on possible escalation of an all-out war, but, the Lebanese Government keeps silent in the face of the Zionists' attacks on the homes of the people in southern Lebanon, he regretted. He called on the people to identify the officials who deceive the people and to dismiss them in whatever position they are.

Israel's 'False Leaks' on Secret Talks Rejected

JN0611154093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We do not think there is any need for any more clarification after an official Syrian spokesman refuted a leaked Israeli report about the existence of secret Syrian-Israeli contacts. In itself, however, the leak might require a pause in order to examine its background, in terms of timing and objective.

In terms of timing, it seems the Israeli leak about the report on these alleged secret contacts was made to influence, if not abort, current international efforts, especially efforts by the cosponsors of the Madrid conference, to activate the peace process. This is done by creating the impression that something is going on in secret. Perhaps through this, Israel wanted to play its last card in order to get rid of the Madrid formula, after all its previous efforts to obstruct the peace process failed in the face of the firmness and clarity of the Syrian position. By this leak, it seems Israel wants to give the world the impression that its efforts to hold secret talks outside the Madrid framework began to receive a Syrian response, meaning there is no longer a need to insist on achieving progress within the framework of the Washington bilaterals. But, the fragility of such an impression is revealed by asking this initial question: What could justify Syria's acceptance of what it has rejected, and continues to reject, in terms of secrecy in the negotiations, especially because its position has received an increasing world response? This response can be seen in the repeated calls for adherence to the negotiating process based on the Madrid formula and the need to achieve progress within its scope.

If, through secrecy, Israel is not seeking to depart from the Madrid formula but from its content, which defines the basis of the desired peaceful settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, then does it make sense for Syria to abandon, just like that, the formula that—because it is based on international legitimacy—secures the restoration of rights and Arab territories? Does it make sense for Syria to involve itself in secret contacts, through which Israel aims at reaching ambiguous agreements similar to the Oslo agreement?

Syria's position on peace is clear. It was underscored in a very accurate phrase: Full peace for full withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Israel is infatuated with ambiguity. It tried, more than once, to present the idea of reaching a declaration of principles for peace with Syria based on what it called constructive ambiguity. Syria rejected and continues to reject any ambiguity. Ambiguity can quickly lead to fragile initial agreements. But, when it comes to the interpretation of provisions and when inner intentions are exposed, then the stage of complications, interpretations, and obstacles begins. This is something we are witnessing in the current negotiations aimed at interpreting the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which was reached the Israeli way.

From this premise, by leaking the false report about secret Syrian-Israeli contacts, Israel exposed its position on activating the peace process, instead of getting what it wanted in terms of embarrassing the Syrian position that continues to reject any form of secret negotiations. Israel's resort to false leaks will never undermine the clear and frank Syrian position on peace and the way to achieve it. Syria has nothing to say in secret that it cannot say in public.

U.S. Urged To Take 'Balanced and Objective' Stand

JN0711163593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Once again, We have to talk about the U.S. role in advancing the peace process, especially in light of the talks Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold with senior U.S. officials in Washington soon. We must look at the impact of these talks on what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will bring to the region during his expected tour at the end of this month.

U.S. statements show that Washington is trying to play a conciliatory role between the positions of the parties involved in the peace process. The U.S. appears to be trying to reconcile Israel's desire to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its objection to achieving quick progress on other tracks of bilateral talks, on the one hand, and what is called the issue of normalization between the Arab countries and Israel, on the other.

It also seems that the United States takes into account the positions of some parties in the peace process while rejecting the position of others. We are not trying to reevaluate what we have just described as the appearance U.S. officials are trying to give, through their public statements, on ways of moving toward peace. Our purpose is to try to explore the nature of the U.S. position as it exercises a growing influence on the peace march. The more this position is balanced and objective, the more it can help achieve the desired comprehensive and just peace in the region. But if this position tips in favor of Israel, the region will move even further from peace.

We say this because we believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will try, during his talks with the U.S. Administration, to get that administration to adopt Israeli positions by exploiting traditional Israeli influence in Washington and presenting his endless and ready pretexts in order to justify these Israeli positions. Reports from Tel Aviv note that Rabin will try to persuade U.S. officials of the need to turn peace negotiations, with Syria in particular, which constitute a major subject of interest at this stage, into secret talks in some place other than Washington. Yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that Israel adheres to

this goal when he said that his government wanted talks with Syria outside the Washington track, which he claims are very narrow and full of dialogue between microphones.

It is obvious that Israeli arguments about the usefulness of secret negotiations instead of the present method have not persuaded anyone. Moreover, evidence surfaces daily from talks about the secret Oslo agreement showing that procrastination, delay, and hindrance take place only in secret deals. It is no longer a secret to anyone, especially Washington, that Israel's aim for the secret talks is to disavow any commitments imposed by the Madrid formula and to remove the basis of international legitimacy and the role of the two sponsors of the peace process—a role that becomes a driving force whenever the process clashes with Israel's intransigence and procrastination.

Undoubtedly, Washington can play a great role in helping the region achieve the desired peace in accordance with the bases agreed to in Madrid. At a time when Israel does not have any reason to deter it from disavowing its commitments, except its own interests and ambitions, we do not believe that the United States—in its capacity as the most prominent international force at present and in light if its great responsibilities for peace in the region and the world at large—can abandon its international responsibilities and obligations, disavow its promise regarding the peace process and its commitments, and expose its credibility to doubts from the world only to satisfy Israel and meet its demands and desires, which will undermine peace prospects in the region.

Al-Asad Receives Ciller's Proposals 'Favorably'

TA0511180693 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over still of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad]

[Text] Turkey and Syria have reached an agreement regarding issues such as: security, meetings between respective foreign ministers; and initiating cooperation mechanisms between respective interior ministries.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Ambassador Volkan Vural, chief adviser in the Prime Minister's Office; Ambassador Bilgin Unan, deputy under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and the accompanying delegation. The delegation relayed Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's message to al-Asad. The duration of the meeting attended also by Syrian Foreign Minister Farug al-Shar' was approximately three hours. It was reported that regional developments, of concern to both Syria and Turkey, as well as bilateral relations—primarily security—were extensively discussed during the meeting.

According to information issued by the Foreign Ministry, al-Asad received favorably Ciller's proposal that both countries's foreign ministers meet during this month. It was reported that al-Asad deemed appropriate the cooperation mechanism that will be initiated between Syrian and Turkish interior ministries.

Vranitzky Visits 'Blue Helmets' on Golan Heights

AU0511194293 Vienna KURIER in German 5 Nov 93 p 4

[Susanne Lintl report: "On the Golan Heights Hatred Can Still Be Felt"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—At the end of his visit to Syria, Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky visited the 455 Austrian blue helmets on the Golan Heights on Thursday [4 November]. The chancellor thanked the Austrians who help safeguard peace between Syria and Israel for their work. Relations between Austria and Syria have been strengthened by his visit and are a contribution that "appropriately complements your work, gentlemen," the chancellor said. He said he is proud that Austrians contribute their share to helping people in other parts of the world "live in peace as we do." Vranitzky said, "common human decency does not allow us to be indifferent."

The chancellor not only stopped by the blue helmets' headquarters, but he also visited al-Kuneitra, the Syrian provincial capital conquered by Moshe Dayan's troops in 1967 and completely destroyed by the Israelis in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, just before it was to be handed over to the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Islamic Army Advances Against Hezb-e Eslami in Tagab

LD0511175293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] In the course of yesterday and today's operations by the Islamic Army in Tagab district, strong blows were inflicted on forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. This district has been completely cleared of the existence of the raiders. Quoting a responsible source in the Defense Ministry, a military correspondent of BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] reported the following:

Raiding forces of Golboddin's party embarked on attacks twice in the past two days which met with the resistance and gallantry of the Islamic Army's forces and suffered a severe defeat. As a result of the counterattack of the units of the Islamic Army on the raiders, heavy losses and damages were inflicted. In addition, 12 members of Hezb-e Eslami were captured by units of the Islamic Army, as well as armored vehicles and heavy and light weapons. A number of their transport vehicles were set ablaze. The source added that as a result of the defeated raiders' [words indistinct].

According to new reports, forces of Golboddin's party have retreated to the district of Sarobi and Naghlo, and units of the Islamic Army continue its advance against the positions of the raiders in the areas. In its morning Pashto program BBC radio broadcast a report on the situation last night that was completely way off reality. The retreat of the Islamic Army was a tactical act, and as a result of the heroism of the forces of the Islamic Army, forces connected to Golboddin's party have been completely cleared from Tagab District, [words indistinct].

Defense Ministry Claims Victory

LD0611112693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] The spokesman of the Afghan Defense Ministry announced today that battles in Tagab have ended and the Defense Ministry forces have been victorious.

In an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Kabul, he said: Following heavy clashes with the Hezb-e Eslami forces, the Afghan Defense Ministry forces managed to force them out of Tagab.

According to the same report, clashes are continuing in eastern areas of Kabul and still noise of shelling and explosions from guns and rockets can be heard in those areas.

Statement Calls For End to Clashes

LD0711122993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The religious scholars, clerics, and various strata of the people of Kabul have issued a statement condemning the clashes between the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and the Afghan Defense Ministry, and calling for an end to war and bloodshed in that country. According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, the statement was submitted to the Afghan deputy prime minister.

Current clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the Afghan Defense Ministry in Kabul have left hundreds of casualties so far and inflicted great damage on the cities electricity installations in the Sarobi area. The Afghan water and electricity minister said last night:

[Announcer-read] If the Sarobi dam, situated in the northeast of Kabul, sustains substantial damage as a result of the continuation of the fighting, apart from damages running into millions of dollars, electricity to Kabul will be cut for indefinite period.

Army's Central Corps Begins Fall Training

LD0211194493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The autumn training session at Jihadi Division of the Army Central Corps began today at a ceremony. A military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reports that the ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General 'Abdol Ra'uf Safi, commander of the Central Army Corps, generals, officers, and commanders [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

India

Iranian Official Arrives for Talks on Shrine

LD0811110093 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Ala'eddin Borujerdi, heading a political delegation, arrived here last night and was welcomed by his Indian counterpart J. Dixit.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, Borujerdi said, "Iran supports the policy of negotiations to settle the problem of 'Hazratbal' shrine".

He also expressed hope that the Indian Government would solve the crisis with patience as soon as possible.

On his recent visit to Pakistan Borujerdi said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran favors good Indo-Pak [as received] relations and welcomes their proposals in this regard."

The Iranian official also announced that Iran-India joint economic commission would be held in Tehran next month to discuss latest regional and international developments.

Furthermore, he added, the commission will follow up implementation of agreements reached between the two countries in the recent visit to Iran of the Indian prime minister, Narasimha Rao.

Kashmir Shrine Militant Escape Bid Foiled

BK0711155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, an attempt by a militant from inside the Hazratbal shrine to escape early this morning was foiled. Disclosing this to newsmen, the sub-area commander, Brigadier K.P.S. Kanwar, said that the militant, who had crawled from the old namaz [prayer] hall to the generator room and then on to the outer wire fencing, ran back into the shrine after he was spotted [by] an alert security patrol. Brig. Kanwar said the escape bid could be a part of the subsequent major escape attempt by others, some of whom were later seen in the old namaz hall of the shrine. Meanwhile, negotiations between the government representatives and the militants holed up inside the shrine are continuing to resolve the tangle. The director general of state police, Mr. Mohender Sabharwal, said the negotiations are proceeding on the right lines and the government is hopeful of an early and peaceful solution. The curfew was in force in only one police station area of the city. The situation throughout Jammu and Kashmir has been described as normal with no untoward incident reported from anywhere.

Three Pakistani Rangers Killed in Jammu

BK0811031193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Three Pakistani rangers were killed in an exchange of fire with the Border Security Force [BSF] in Ramgarh sector of the Indo-Pak border in Jammu district yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the Pakistani rangers were trying to remove a boundary pillar, which was objected to by the BSF. The rangers instead resorted to firing on the BSF, who returned the fire and foiled the Pakistani move. The exchange of firing continued for about six hours. There were no casualties on the Indian side.

Solarz Blamed for Advocating Kashmir Secession

BK0711141593 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Accumulating Signs of Danger"]

[Text] Mr. Stephen Solarz who is expected to be President Bill Clinton's ambassador to India, reports say, asked a group of Indian MPs, visiting Washington, how the rest of India would react were Kashmir to secede from the Union. Mr. Solarz surely was not expecting an answer: For he knew how this country would respond to the second vivisection of India. The British, taking advantage of a Congress leadership which had been traumatised by the barbarity of a calculated programme of violence let loose by the pre-partition Muslim League, enforced partition of undivided India. Hope, or wishful thinking, then was that partition would be temporary and an era of cooperation would soon dispel the manifold misunderstanding to bring the two countries together in an act of voluntary reunion. The Congress leaders, and those Indians who had fought for the independence of India for 90 years, were strong in idealism but were deficient in the understanding of the dynamics of the Pakistan movement and the nature of the mainspring of power-play sustaining it. A similar tragedy would be re-enacted if India's present day leaders supinely wait, with passive hope that something would turn up to shield them from the hard-headed decisions they should be taking to defend the territorial integrity of India. We are up against a super-power, the only one, which has decided that countries like China and India need not be as large as these are. (Winston Churchill was a firm upholder of this Western belief). That is why Mr. Clinton has encouraged Pakistan to demand withdrawal of India's security forces from the Valley of Kashmir and questioned the efficacy of the Shimla agreement. The State of Jammu and Kashmir, it is being said by responsible American officials, is "a disputed territory". The Prime Minister, in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, two months ago, assured that India would not be partitioned again. That assurance was not a fatalistic credo, a mere belief. Steps have to be taken to defend India's territorial integrity. The Western powers were responsible for tearing apart the Republic of Yugoslavia and plunging the Balkans again in the medieval barbarities. India under no circumstances would be another Yugoslavia. The Solarzes of the West must understand this.

IRAN

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0511172693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 5 Nov 93

[First Friday prayer sermon by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 5 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] I stress the need for observing virtue and performing our religious and moral duties, our Islamic duties, and refraining from doing what has been prohibited. I intend to devote my first sermon today to my recent [Central Asian] trip—to submit a report to our dear ummah. Then I will devote the second sermon to current affairs in the country and in the world.

Of course, regarding my trip there has been a great deal of coverage in the media, including my own interview when I returned home from that trip. A great deal has

been covered, yet there remain a number of points that have not been covered. I think, however, that our people, like myself, are interested in hearing more about the problems of newly born Muslim countries, the republics of the new Commonwealth of Independent States. These were the countries which were behind the Iron Curtain for several decades and so we had little information about them; now the more we talk about them the more people like to hear.

The whole area comprises an important location. Our trip addressed important issues. There are 50 million people living in an areas twice the size of Iranian territory, boasting vast resources and having a very important geographic position. Almost all the world has focused its attention on that area—everyone, whether from the West or the East, or from Islamic countries. There are vast natural resources in the area which have tempted many to strive for a larger foothold in those territories. [passage omitted]

We are not separate from each other, from the historical point of view. There were fantastic things in the ceremonies we took part in there. The people, those who talked to us, were intent on saying in Persian—to a certain extent—the things they had to say to us. Although they had been kept away from Persian, they tried to choose such terms as they could to demonstrate their roots. Even the children who came to us in the welcoming ceremonies used Persian literary terms and Persian names in the phrases that they had made.

This point is important in the argument that I will presently put foward. What point have we reached now? Seventy years after the Soviet Marxist policy tried very hard to separate nearly three generations from their national and Islamic identity—since we should reckon almost 25 years for every generation. It is after that strange era of identity cleansing which the people suffered that one sees such a situation there. Therefore, I tell you a sociological point which demonstrates a reality. Maybe, also, that region is an important laboratory for a lesson in history. Those who wish to be historians should heed those lessons. Two things have remained quite intact—of course in a root form, without any branches. One is the Islamic identity of those people and another is the national identity of those people. What is strange is that the efforts of the Soviet Union were directed at taking away those two identities from them, their Islamic as well as their national identity. When one goes there for a little while one realizes that the Russians and all the Communist Parties of the Soviet era tried quite hard, even to mix the people. Compulsory migration, the mixing of the communities, the destruction of monuments, the changing of languages, the script, and the culture, and the imposition of specific values which were in direct contrast with these, and such like. It is fantastic that 70 years of effort to take away the national and religious identities of those people have failed. They are still avid to regain all the aspects of their identity. One even notices the names. I asked one of the presidents, while we were travelling in a car, what the names of his children were. Now those children would have been from the Marxist era. He said: I have two daughters named Laleh [tulip] and Golnar [pomegranate flower]; special names which demonstrate the interest in their origin, and that was at the time of the idol [taghut], the Soviet idol.

They have preserved their identity. They are still committed, very committed. For example, in an official banquet in Uzbekistan, during the ceremonies, they had chosen the Persian poems of Alishir Nava'yi, and their singers performed their music, their songs with Persian notation. It was not just for our sake either. It is in their lives. It is part of their lives and they cannot separate it from their lives. Of course the great catastrophe that has occurred is that the children at this time do not recognize the Arabic script, the Persian script. They deal with Cyrillic, and recently, Latin scripts. They have lost their contact with ancient books, inscriptions, and literary works. When their eyes fall upon them they do not understand anything, cannot read them, but their hearts have a connection. Probably they will solve that problem since they cannot give up their glories, which they love so much.

Then a most important point is that the Marxists failed—with all their expertise in making propaganda and changing values—to destroy the Islamic and national identities. That is everywhere.

The other important point—which is somewhat new and more of a current issue for us—is that, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the independence of these countries, the policies of Russia as well as the policies of the West—that is, the whole of the news and propaganda imperialism—made a tremendous effort to prevent these countries from renewing ties with Islamic Iran, to frighten them away from Iran and the Islamic revolution. You understand that from our own news reports. Those, however, who are more in the know realize the vast volume of propaganda which is put out to create a distance between us and them. All the official media also work in the same direction. In any state you visit you see four or five television channels which are mainly from Russia, or, for example, the American CNN, or the British BBC, or Turkey. Some are national and their own. Well, those are the media there.

On the other hand there is nothing there from Iran; that is, our media do not have an effective presence in any of those states. But the media opposed to us are constantly bombarding the people with propaganda. This must have a big effect; naturally it must destroy their minds. Especially where women are concerned, because the foreign media have a weapon which is: Iran isolates women, does not allow them to come into the community, and so on, and so on. The same things they keep saying and you keep hearing. Essentially they have to frighten the women, who form half the population, and through them affect the rest.

It was a source of great surprise for us that all that propaganda has failed to create the distance they wish between Iran and these newly independent states. The analysis of that is clear in my mind. The effect of our trip

has been contrary to their expectation. The examples you must have seen in reports about us. It is not at all customary. You see that we have guests; presidents of the world states come over here. Elsewhere presidents come and go. But it is not customary for the people to gather in the streets for guests who have come for their own business and treat them the way they treated us. The scenes that we encountered during the tour—where there was reason for us to encounter the people... [sentence unfinished as heard] Well, for many tasks we had to go to the presidential palaces for talks, and the people would not be there. When we were in the streets, and so on, or were visiting monuments or universities for academic programs, the people expressed such interest in our delegation that we did not see any difference between Iran and there from the affection point of view. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to arrogance."]

Let me explain some points here. Of course there is a difference between you—our own people—and the peoples of those republics. That is, your slogans and statements have much more Islamic and anti-arrogant and revolutionary content, while there the people express their love and feelings in a different way.

At one point, during our trip, Turkmens and Iranians were standing side by side. We went to inaugurate a customs post at a town on the border. On one side the people had come from the town of Kaka in Turkmenistan and on the other side of the border the people of Lotfabad and Daragaz had come from Iran. The point of difference to which I referred was really only too evident. Both sides were kind and were expressing their good feelings. But the way the people of Daragaz expressed their feelings to us—the president of Turmenistan was also with me— was truly magnificent. When he witnessed the feelings of the Iranians, when he heard the slogans, and saw the Iranian youth he could see the difference. Of course, on the other side too we witnessed the same feelings. However, the modality of expressing their feelings was different. [passage omitted]

There were ladies whose dresses were not to our liking. We would under no circumstances tolerate such dresses for women in Iran. Yet, those ladies gathered on streets to cheer the Iranian delegation. That shows that the propaganda centered on women to frighten them away from Islam has had no effect. Of course, we tried to tell them that the propaganda saying that Iran does not want women to have status is wrong. [passage omitted]

It shows that despite hostile propaganda against Iran these peoples are close to Iran and their relationship with Iran and Islam is strong. So, the propaganda of arrogance has not influenced these nations. That is an important point.

The same was true with regard to officials of those countries. The propaganda of arrogance had tried to frighten the officials even more. They were telling them that the Iranians are coming to your countries to influence your people with Islamic propaganda and to entice them to revolt against their leaders. They often frame their lies in that fashion. But the leaders of those countries were not influenced.

The leaders accompanied us and encouraged their people to give us such a warm welcome. [passage omitted]

These facts represent a rebuff to all propaganda loudspeakers that had told them lies, saying that the Iranians were threatening them.

We visited a mosque with the president of Kyrgyzstan—an event which you may have seen on the television. I am not sure whether the film was broadcast over here or not—and we saw a sizeable number of religious scholars and seminary students, very much like what we have in our religious seminaries in Iran. They all gathered around the two of us, who were seated on each side of the prayer altar, and there was no distance between the people, the seminary students, and the president of that country. We in Iran are also seminary students, and enjoy the same type of relationship with the people; a relationship to which are accustomed. However, they have never been in the same situation as us, since they used to be the leaders of their former Communist Parties before assuming the post of the presidency of their respective countries. They have never had anything to do with mosques. The Kyrgyz president said a few words to the people who had gathered, and I realized what he was saying was in fact a rebuff to all the propaganda waged by the news apparatus of arrogance. One of the sentences which he said was: The worst blow that the communists dealt to us during these 70 years was that they created a distance between our people and religion. He also said: In the absence of the reign of religion anywhere, the bleak rule of ugliness and darkness will prevail. These words were in total contradiction of all the propaganda which had hitherto been waged with the aim of rendering these people and their officials fearful of religion. The propaganda insinuated that the Central Asian officials were fearful and concerned over Iran's intentions.

While accompanied by the parliamentary speaker of Uzbekistan, we paid a visit to the Transoxanian Office for Religious Affairs in Uzbekistan, which is situated in an old school building. We met the religious scholars there, who provided us with some statistics which they said had become public. They said that during the last two or three years they had succeeded in building or restoring about 5,000 mosques and hundreds of schools, and in training thousands of religious scholars in these countries. This all went very much against what was being said through the ordinary line of propaganda. [passage omitted]

At present, many countries are making huge investments in the Azerbaijan Republic. However, that country's science academy, which enjoys the highest scientific reputation, makes a historical move and for the first time

ever in its history, proudly awards a foreigner—that is, the president of Iran—with its highest and most valued prize. This reveals the futility of all propaganda ploys, and the failure of efforts to create distance between us and them. God prevented their propaganda from winning the hearts of these people and achieving success in portraying the image of Islam as a horrifying, destructive, terrorist, and fundamentalist entity—of course what they imply by fundamentalist. The attitude among the officials in these countries was also the same; I have already provided a number of examples. We succeeded in reaching agreements with them over all the issues which we discussed, and they were extremely anxious for cooperation with Iran.

When we were travelling on the 22-km road between the Baku airport and our residence, we were welcomed by a massive crowd, many of whom were shouting Allah-o-Akbar. Remember that this is Baku which was once subjected—and still is to an extent through television channels—to the most intense anti-religious bombardments.

In my opinion, everything which we saw generally during our visit was very meaningful and expressive. It all showed that these people reserve a great deal of importance and priority for their national and Islamic identity and for their relations with the bastion of Islamic revolution, Iran. [passage omitted]

I would like to say one more thing. Even those people who are inclined towards leading materialistic lives and who think about their materialistic happiness, even those people who are not Muslims—because there are also many non-Muslims there—they, too, understand that, because of natural circumstances, their happiness and their interest lies in cooperation with Iran, because that is the way our region has operated. The geographical nature of things has meant that that region has been closer to us. They, therefore, looked in this direction for their needs throughout history.

During the time when that region was separated, they wanted to make it artificially dependent on the north and, especially, Russia. Of course, they expended a great deal of effort on this. In those days, each of these countries was like a province in the Soviet Union; that is, they were called republics, but they were like provinces. Their lives have been organized in such a way as to make it impossible for them to live independently; in much the same way as our provinces. If we take one of our provinces, its electricity comes from one place, its oil from another place, its gas from still another place, its industrial products are used elsewhere, its agricultural products go elsewhere, its water may come from another province; all these circumstances existed in those republics.

The Soviets deliberately planned it so that products would be distributed in such a way that they would all be interdependent. They would tell one place to plant cotton, but they would put the cotton-cleaning and weaving plants elsewhere. They would tell another place to plant grapes, but the wine-making plants would be somewhere else. As for industry, they would tell one place to make car engines and another to make the bodyworks. The train engine would be made in one place, the train wagon somewhere else, and the parts of both of these would be made yet elsewhere. The raw material would come from other places. They would tell one place to produce minerals, another place to provide the workforce.

Bearing in mind this situation, they cannot live apart. Turkmenistan's gas pipelines go to all these republics and all the factories depend on them. Turkmenistan, in turn, depends on them. They have not been provided with any outlets to anywhere else. If they were allowed any outlets to foreign countries, they were in the direction of western Europe and passing through Russia itself; in other words, they controlled that path as well.

Well, they understand that this dependence is like a rope around their necks which will strangle them if they ever try to pull away. It is such an instrument of captivity that, whenever some people want to live independently in one place, they put a stop to it. This is not even a secret. Everyone will tell you this themselves. All their lives are like this. Many of those countries do not have any outlet to open seas. One problem in the world today is that countries that do not have an outlet to the sea always face difficulties. However, most of their difficulties are due to the reasons I gave earlier.

If they are to have any alternative, if they are to compete, to provide their resources from other places, find less expensive ways of linking themselves to the world, the best way for them is through Iran. If they want to go in another direction, they must either go through China, which would mean circumnavigating the world—and crossing the deserts of western China is almost like traversing half the world—or they must go through India, in which case they must go through China and cross the Himalayas, and they are mountains that only small vehicles can travel. Or else they must go through Afghanistan, but Pakistan and Afghanistan pose their own problems. The most suitable way is Iran.

It should also be said that our resources are liked very much there. People like things that come from Iran. I went to a trade fair in Almaty in Kazakhstan. It consisted of around 50 stands. They were all satisfied, [words indistinct] but the problem lay in transferring the money, because the law there prevents the transfer of funds. Otherwise, the people preferred Iranian goods to those they produced themselves or to things brought by the Russians. We witnessed the same thing in Turkmenistan.

Serving these people is very important to us. These are nations who were captive for 70 years and have now risen out of the ruin and rubble left by Marxism. We must build them communication links, such as railways, shipping, air transport, telephone networks, and similar things. Fortunately, they wholeheartedly welcome such things. Especially as they have found out that all the

adverse propaganda is mere lies, and Iran has no intention of interfering in their affairs and merely wants to serve them. We have extended the hand of friendship toward them, because cooperation with Islamic countries is one of the priorities stipulated in our Constitution. We consider these people as our brothers of the past, the present, and the future. In my opinion, many noteworthy things are present in that area that necessitate our extensive cooperation. I would like to ask our officials and our private sector to reserve priority for working with them. Here the aim is not to make profit, but to serve Muslims. Of course, reasonable profits will be yielded. But in any case, we and they can be a collective entity because historical, geographical, and natural conditions dictate to us that we should cooperate with one another. [passage omitted]

Second Friday Prayer Sermon

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[Second sermon by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Friday prayers in Tehran on 5 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the second sermon I shall briefly refer to several important points one-by-one. The first issue of the coming week is that of education, which in all practicality and effect is one of most important issues that we face. Particularly because the center of the programs is in the Ministry of Education, and they are addressed to our youth, the very generation which the revolution is for and which is to receive the heritage of the revolution. [passage omitted]

The second issue concerns last week's 4 November, which has been registered in our history as the day for struggle against global arrogance. Thank God, the issues were explained in every respect in these days. Particularly the speech of our dear and wise leader, who always explains issues to our people at appropriate times. The various aspects of the issues were superbly discussed—through analysis, logic, and reason—for the people.

This is an important day in our history. It is not only a matter of slogans. The very root of the day has its source in one of the most important issues of our history. The day 4 November was when the Imam was arrested and exiled for the intensity of his struggle and for directing the arrow dead on the mark. Americans were not satisfied with all the hegemony they had in Iran and saw a threat. At the time they presented a bill to the Majles in order to impose capitulation [capitalasyun; word used to equate legal privileges to U.S. nationals in Iran with Ottoman privileges to Western powers] on our country. In other words, to take away the independence of our judiciary and to give judicial immunity to foreigners, particularly the Americans, who had at the time infiltrated the Army and the oil industry and sensitive sectors of our country. This was to give them assurances to invest here. The Imam understood the danger appropriately and properly revealed the treachery that the shah's regime wanted to commit against the country. Of course, America could not tolerate this, and without hesitation—the Imam had had many radical speeches at the time and had issued many harshly-worded letters—he was arrested and taken to Turkey and then Iraq and they did not allow him to return to Iran until the victory of the revolution. But the people never forgot the Imam's order and the warning. [participants chant: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, Death to America, Death to Israel, and other slogans]

Before the revolution, during the entire period between the year 42 to 57 [1964-79] we always marked the anniversary of the day when the Imam was sent to exile with ceremonies and preserved its historic importance. During the last days of the struggle, that day was painted with the blood of our dear students, which took place just here in the square facing the university. [passage omitted]

Another incident also took place on that day. Our students and our Hezbollah forces, as a sign of protest against the policies of the provisional government and a protest against many cases of interference by the Americans during those days... [pauses] They had turned their embassy into a center of espionage and all opposition groups were maintaining some kind of a link with that embassy. Those days we did not have proper intelligence control. Therefore, they thought that we did not see anything. But the people were aware and on-the-scene forces were vigilant. Everyone could monitor all such dangerous links. Therefore, when the students reacted, [by occupying the U.S. Embassy] people approved their action. Obviously you have not forgotten the scenes of those days. The majority of people approved the action as it was clear to them that that place was abusing the diplomatic immunity rendered to foreign embassies by the revolution. That appropriate reaction increased even further the importance of that day in our history.

Fortunately these days enough has been said on dimensions of those issues, and there is no need for more. We should make great use of our historic past and glories of the period of the struggle and revolution. Using those historic assets we can always maintain our anti-arrogance struggle, independence, and independent Islamic policy and transfer them to the future generations through lessons and teachings, God willing. [participants chant: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, Death to America, Death to Israel]

There are also many issues in the world of Islam. As time is up, I will only mention them by name. Unfortunately, the issues of the world of Islam continue to be negative, critical, and dripping with blood. In Bosnia, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kashmir we see that Muslims are seriously oppressed, and the enemies of Islam are aggressive, which is regrettable. Of course those events can be effective in the awakening and vigilance of the world of Islam only if the people of those places become vigilant and try to find a

solution. If help comes from outside, they welcome it; otherwise people should solve their problems themselves. Wherever people are ready for self-sacrifice God will help them to succeed. [passage omitted]

Armenia's 'Scorched-Earth' Policy Condemned

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[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The aggressor Armenian forces in the newly-occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan are using a scorched-earth policy. Domestic news agencies report that since yesterday fires can be seen along dozens of kilometers of the common Iranian-Azerbaijani borders—from Khoda Afarin to Aslanduz. Previously too, after fully occupying Fizuli, Zangelan, Kubatly, Jebrail and parts of southwest Azerbaijan, the Armenian forces set fire to all city installations and buildings and, in some cases, to forests.

Political observers believe that the Armenian forces' scorched earth policy in the Armenia's aggressive war against Azerbaijan is further complicating this war and is making a solution difficult. Presently, as a result of Armenia's assault on Azerbaijan about 1 million Azeris, or nearly one-seventh of the total population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, have been rendered homeless and about 15 percent of Azerbaijani territory has been occupied by Armenian forces. Some of the refugees of this war sought refuge in Iran last week and have been housed in temporary camps.

Even though such destruction cannot be rapidly overcome, nevertheless a political solution to the Karabakh war would allow the refugees to return to their homes and to thus mitigate the losses inflicted by the war. However, the actual result of the aggressive Armenian forces' scorched earth policy will be that even if the current Azerbaijani-Armenian war is resolved politically, the Azeri refugees will not be able to return to their cities and homes. This will definitely protract hatreds and could lay the basis for another conflict in the long run.

In view of the dangerous consequences of the scorched earth policy for regional security now and in the future, the logical thing for the Armenian forces to do is to stop such inhuman acts and not forget that war is a fleeting phenomenon but geography has condemned the Armenians to be neighbors of Azerbaijan, and that throughout history the Azeris have lived in peace and tranquility next to the Armenians—a process that should continue.

Larijani on U.S. Ties, Status of Iraq

NC0611134593 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Commenting on the spiteful propaganda in the Western mass media claiming that there are two camps among the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding relations with America, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has a single foreign policy and a common stance, especially when it comes to the establishment of relations with America, and this is manifested in the directives that are issued by the esteemed leader.

The first deputy chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission said in an interview with IRNA: Naturally Iran considers as logical the establishment of relations with any country that has a foreign policy based on logical and accepted principles and which also respects the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: What has thrown American-Iranian relations off the logical and principled tracks is the way American statesmen think and their assessment of how relations between the two countries should be.

Dr. Larijani added: The Americans believe that the countries of the world cannot continue to exist and to develop unless they accept Washington's leadership. Also, they do not want an Iran which is not prepared to accept American diktat in order to exist in this region.

He referred to the existing conditions in Somalia and Haiti as verification of Iran's views of America and said: Conditions both in Somalia and in Haiti speak of the nonacceptance of America's role as world leader. America's theory of world leadership is not only illegitimate but unworkable and unacceptable.

He said: When America stops this policy and is ready to establish relations with us on an equal and logical basis like other countries do, then Iran will reassess the situation and will make the necessary decision—taking its interests into consideration—on whether to establish to establish relations with America.

He said that the breaking of Iran's relations with America was not a result of an emotional stance and stressed: What has destroyed a logical relationship between the two countries are America's policies, ideas, and strategies in the region. Therefore, we do not see any reason why we should establish relations with America at a time when the grounds for such relations are illogical.

The deputy chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission then commented on the PLO-Israeli compromise deal and on Iran's stance, saying: There should not be a moment of doubt—as there has not been—that this accord is unjust and unimplementable.

This accord lacks just and practical grounds for implementation and is, therefore, illegitimate.

Going on to list the reasons why this accord is unjust, he referred to the Tel Aviv regime's racism and the fact that it has not offered a solution to or made any mention of the problem of the Palestinian refugees and Palestinian prisoners, of the natural rights of the Palestinian citizens, or of the future of Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

He said that Israel's main objective with this accord is to serve its economic and political interests and to gain a foothold in the region, adding: At one time Israel was facing the troops of the Arab countries. Now it sees the Islamic ummah confronting it and is trying to defeat it. But this ummah is exactly what is going to defeat it, hence the Zionists' sensitivity to Islamic movements.

Commenting on Iran's stance on Iraq's domestic situation he said: Iran's interests lie in the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity and in the continuation of political stability in Iraq. An unstable Iraq is not in our interest. He described the legal problems that exist between the two countries as natural and said: There are a series of problems between Iran and Iraq that have nothing to do with a specific government. These are legal problems between two governments, problems such as the implementation of the provisions of Resolution 598, which should be solved.

Larijani said that the lack of information on the fate of Iranian POW's and their continued detention are among these problems and added: The fact that all these years after the war our POW's continue to be held in Iraq cannot be justified in any way.

Referring to the fact that Iran observes the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq, he said: Iran has respected the Security Council's decisions. It will continue this policy and will not be the first government to violate these resolutions.

Commenting on the same issue, he added: In view of the threats that could stem from Iraq's dismemberment, Iran supports Iraq's integrity and its sovereignty and opposes intervention by foreign powers in that country.

Larijani went on to comment on Iran's relations with Central Asian countries, saying: Iran's relations with these republics constitute a good pattern for other countries to follow and the Islamic Republic's policy is based on helping these nations and on mutual respect.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in helping the peoples in these countries to find their true identity, in creating a political structure in these republics, and in establishing mutual industrial and cultural relations.

He continued: Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip is a good indication of this policy. But we should not limit relations to government channels, but should try to provide the necessary means to facilitate the efforts of entrepreneurs, industrialists, and the private sector in making their own contacts with these countries.

Larijani then referred to the reasons for instability in Central Asia and cited as the reasons for this instability the hope of reviving the power of the former Soviet Union in the region and the instigations and policies of certain countries, especially America. In explaining American policies and instigations in the Central Asian countries, he said:

America is only seeking hegemony in these republics and for this reason it foments civil wars and ethnic conflicts, as well as a continuation of the process of the dismemberment of these countries.

Larijani added: The bases for the cooperation between these republics and countries that are not seeking to spread chaos or create problems are so good that this rivalry will not result in a destructive rivalry and confrontation.

He said: The Foreign Policy Commission of the Majles supports steps to bolster Iran's relations with these republics as well as efforts to assist them to revive their true identity and create the necessary political, economic, and cultural structures there.

He said that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to these republics was successful and added: Iran's relations with these nations will deepen each day and these republics will become our potential partners in trade, economy, and industry, and our friends in cultural-political cooperation in the region.

In answer to a question about the possible repercussions that the arrest of German businessman Gerhardt Bachmann in Tehran may have on Tehran's relations with Germany, Mr. Larijani said: Our relations with Germany are principled relations based on understanding and friendship and respect for the interests of both countries. Since the arrest of this German citizen is a completely legal matter, it is not logical for this issue to have any impact on bilateral relations.

Referring to insinuations by the Western mass media to this effect, he said: It is impossible for this issue to affect the good relations between Iran and Germany, in the same way that the prosecution of some Iranian citizens in Germany has not harmed Iran's relations with that country.